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MANY of the critics who have sat in judgment upon "Ecce Homo" have reminded us of Prince John when he was compelled to crown the disguised Ivanhoe in the lists of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Whilst pronouncing like him an award in favour of an unknown champion, they have feared that from the deviceless vizor before them, an answer might be returned in the awful accents of some lion-hearted Richard of Theology. A little consideration would have shown these arbiters of intellectual tournaments that the boards of that book do not contain the thews and sinews capable of overthrowing the Saracens of error, who occupy the Holy City in the teeth of our modern crusaders. Their voice is given with trembling, and they can only echo the cry of an unthinking crowd, because, like John, in their hearts they have thrown off their true allegiance, and are doubtful upon whom they can reckon as friend or foe. With these self-appointed Regents, who dread nothing so much as a rightful King, we have nothing to do; but the success of so unsatisfactory a performance as "Ecce Homo" may well give rise to serious reflections as to what is likely to be the Future of Theology. Time has been, when Theology was elevated far above all other principalities and kingdoms of the intellectual world. Natural Philosophy was but her handmaid. Politics was scarce worthy to unbuckle her shoe. Under her favourite name of "Divinity" she seemed to comprehend more than the Universe. She grew from the "Logia" of Matthew, and the "Heraldings" of Peter, until with her stride she determined the figure of the Earth, and Thought, like Siva in the Indian story, was unable with all its flight to reach what might seem her Head.

That pre-eminence has long passed away. The Works of God have become as much matter of study as His Word, but it is in that of the latter that Theology has its special province. This limitation is due in a great measure to the shortsightedness, not of such men as Augustine and Aquinas, but of those who were brought up in celibacy and convents. A rival arose under the name of Science, and claimed, or is claiming, everything but an inspired Book as its own. Yet this ought not to have been so. The highest problems, about which Science is now busy, the fundamental laws of the Universe, the evolution of Life, and the destiny of mankind and the planet he inhabits, are essentially bound up with the existence of a Maker, and of the question whether his attributes are such, that we are right in believing him to be a Moral Governor, or in any sense a Providence at all. The so-called theologians of the day will tell you contemptuously that all those questions have been settled by them long ago, and that it is beneath them to address themselves to men who are not satisfied on such obvious and elementary truths. But this arrogance in reality arises either from ignorance, or inability to read the importance of what is passing before their eyes, or because they are secretly conscious of an incapacity to grapple with problems which are perhaps even more momentous than the truth of Christianity itself.

When it was universally believed that our planet was somewhere between 4,000 and 6,000 years old; when it was an article of faith that death would have had no place in the creation except for Adam's disobedience; when the Origin of Evil was referred to a state of things with which man was in no way concerned; then the explanation given by the popular view of Christianity, that God, after various

efforts to recal man to a knowledge of himself, had "in these latter days" offered a final means of reconciliation, which it was in the power of every one to accept or refuse, was satisfactory and plausible enough. Whatever quarrel Satan might have with his Maker, for placing the means of ill-doing in his power, man was silenced by the constant reproach of his priest, that he, through Adam, had quite enough to be responsible for in the agonies and sufferings which Sin had brought upon the creation. And this consideration was so overwhelming to every religious mind as to keep in abeyance all unwelcome doubts as to the nature of a Maker, who permitted such suffering to have place amongst his works. But this compact little method of "explaining away" the origin of evil has been entirely falsified by the discoveries of Geology. The problem has been presented to our generation in a far more awful shape than it has ever assumed before. The lesson taught by the silent evidence of the dead bones of the creatures which have preceded us has sunk into the minds of men. If they feel elevated by the consideration that Death entered into the world long before Adam, and that neither he nor his posterity are in any way answerable for the sufferings, or the imperfect lives of the animal creation, the question of the origin and the meaning of evil becomes still more inexplicable than ever. The Sin of man might have seemed an insufficient reason, it might have seemed to raise more doubts than it resolved, but still it *was* a reason, and faith is easily satisfied. Any attempt, therefore, to reconsider what is so far above Christianity that a proper understanding on that point can alone explain the necessity of a scheme of redemption, ought to be welcome. Let it be shewn that the orthodox interpretation of the Fall of Man needs revision, and how many excellent discourses, how many elaborate commentaries, will fall into perpetual disrepute! There is a vested interest in stock phrases, as there is in the power of teaching Latin verses; and the truth is often kept from the multitude, because the preacher is unwilling to admit that he cannot preach wisely according to the lights in which he has been brought up, and yet preach in vain. It is not surprising, then, that an anonymous voice from America should be the first to re-state the problem of Humanity; for such an enquiry is infinitely above the petty factions of the High Church which exalteth its horn, or the Broad Church which leadeth to destruction, or the Low Church which is moved at their coming.

Taking the narrative of Genesis as it stands, our author's endeavour is to "seek, through a critical examination, its real meaning and purport." Starting from this, he denies that man was originally a *moral* being; he denies that death was a penalty inflicted for the disobedience of man. He holds the command was merely a precaution; and that the results were according to the plan of God, that man might develop from an innocent to a moral being, and from a moral being to a perfect one.

No theological argument could now be worth an instant's consideration, which did not admit the existence of death and suffering in the world for ages, and, indeed, always from the first appearance of life, before the creation of man. These evils are, therefore, not the consequences of sin, nor is there anything to indicate that, apart from his moral history, man exists under different relations or laws of being from the races which preceded or surround him. But what is that moral history? When did it begin? and how? Did it begin with a crime? and if so, was the actor conscious of his crime? Our author considers that when man was "created in the image of God," no moral resemblance is intended. "In the situation in which he first found himself, under the immediate care of his Creator, with nothing to call his passions into play, a conscience and moral sense were as useless to him as to the brutes." The address of God to man, contained in Genesis i., 22, 28-30,

is then considered:—"Is it not remarkable, that, in this epitome of all the matters expected of him by his maker, not a hint is given of that important fact, which, had it existed, must have constituted the fundamental distinction between him and all other creatures, and the great pervading idea, in all directions to him from the Author of his being? Is it not remarkable that while, at such a time, his relations to the world and the creatures about him are so clearly and fully set forth, not a suggestion is dropped of any such relations to his God, as, had he been a moral being, must have been to him unspeakably the most important and interesting of all considerations? How is it that we find not a word from which we can infer the imposition upon him of any rule of moral duty, or even the existence of any moral capabilities?"

The author well argues, that the fact of a "command" having been given to Adam by no means implies his moral nature. For God "commanded the fish which swallowed and released the prophet Jonah; Joshua, the sun and moon; and Christ, the winds and waves;" and Adam was to "have dominion" over the inferior creatures. If man might receive a command without being a moral being, it follows that he might disobey one. But if so, would it be just to *punish* him for such disobedience. Our author labours much to show that he was not punished. Mortality, he observes, was his natural condition. This appears because he might have become immortal by partaking of the tree of life, but only so; and this he might have done, even after eating of the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil," for it is expressly so stated. The only result, therefore, so far, was that the possibility—for it was never more—of avoiding death, was denied by God, by removing the pair from Paradise. In a close examination of Eve's temptation, reasons are found why Eve could only have been an innocent—not a *moral*—being. As the former, she might have been beguiled by the Serpent. Had she been also the latter, "such an open insult upon her Parent and Friend, such base aspersions of his veracity and affection, and such calumnious imputations against him of a mean jealousy of his children, would have agitated her with indignation and horror, and driven her from the presence of the tempter. Such, at least, would be the natural effect upon a human mind not utterly debased, as humanity is at present constituted. Yet we find no intimation that they in the least disturbed her tranquillity, or awakened her suspicions; a fact inexplicable, except upon the supposition that she was incapable of appreciating their wickedness."

Very new and suggestive are the reflections on that part of the narrative which describes the actions of the pair immediately after eating the forbidden fruit. "Their eyes were opened" can by no just construction be made to imply the inroad of sinful emotions. It is nowhere so used in Scripture. On the contrary, it always implies a mental illumination. . . . It is certain and admitted that Adam and Eve attained some new perceptions . . . and what were they? Not, surely, that a state of nudity was in itself improper to moral beings, for God had allowed them theretofore to continue unclothed. . . . Apart from all this, the expression fairly denotes an improvement in the *mental vision*, whereby it is strengthened or cleared up, to discern things *previously in existence*, but undistinguished; and can by no just use of language be employed to describe the total change of a man's circumstances. . . . "That this new feeling was no sinful prompting, but in accordance with the dictates of purity and modesty, is clear, for God himself afterwards sanctioned it, by clothing them in a more perfect manner. Neither here, nor elsewhere in the narrative, do we find the least hint of a sudden degradation, or of the incoming of new depravity."

Then he points out that the curses or sentences are not denounced upon Adam but upon the ground; in very different language from the personal curse which is denounced upon

Cain, or the Israelites, and that the punishment, as it is called, which was inflicted upon Eve, is merely a statement of the necessary consequence of her altered position. And, again, "the worst penalties of sin are not here alluded to. Nothing is said of the diseases, the violence, the distresses, the injustice, the alarms, the remorse, and all the other direct punishments of sin in this life; nothing of its retribution in another state of existence. Will it be claimed that God not only openly affixed unexpected additions to the penalty originally forewarned, but even in announcing these mentally added others, the greatest, most important, and most fearful of all? Clearly, if an announcement of the penalty for sin, this 'sentence,' while it is in one point of view unjustly enlarged, is in another as strangely deficient."

But what, then, are these consequences to ensue upon the disobedience? If not penalties, at all events they are not rewards:—

They are, manifestly, certain new conditions of existence now imposed upon man, as those into which Infinite Wisdom and Benevolence see it best that he, as a moral agent, shall enter; conditions which, though involving some sorrows, and entailing some burdens, are yet with wonderful wisdom adapted to his necessities in his exalted, yet hazardous state of moral agency, in order to enable him to escape its perils, to partake fully of its blessings, and to reach, through it, the highest development of his being. This supposition reconciles all the difficulties which we have considered, and which present such insuperable objections to any other view of this narrative. These conditions of life were, indeed, as proclaimed by the Creator, to be entered into by Adam and his posterity, "because" he committed the act of disobedience; yet they are not open to the charge of injustice that would lie against them, were they a punishment for that, his individual act. They were not aggravations of the troubles incident to humanity, but a means adopted to mitigate or prevent the evils to which it would otherwise be exposed. To have created subsequent generations into a state of punishment for acts committed before they were born, would have been an injustice, however slight that punishment might be; but to create them into any particular conditions of life, not sufficiently onerous to make existence, on the whole, a burden and an evil (especially if the purpose and tendency of those conditions were to promote their happiness or elevation), would be no more unjust than to create them into any particular age or country.

We have quoted the last passage, notwithstanding its length, because we wish to show that this author is not afraid to enter into the question of how it could be just for God to create a moral being who he knew must necessarily fall into a degraded condition, and bring evil upon himself and his descendants. There is, in almost every theological work which is published in this country, a timidity which makes it seem insincere, and as if written by one who is arguing against his own convictions. There are high-sounding expressions about the goodness, and the justice, and the power of God, as if to beat down all opposition beforehand. Yet we cannot doubt that God has duties to perform to mankind as well as duties to exact in return. And, if so, an inquiry into how far, and in what manner, they have been fulfilled, argues no disrespect to our Maker, but the reverse. The dealings of God with man, the uses of pain, and of evil, are the true problems of Theology. Here they are handled in a manner which makes us hope that Science is not quite extinct, and that some attempt even in this country will shortly be made to restate the problem of Man's position in the Universe. When Augustine wrote the "City of God" he felt it was necessary for Christianity to fill up the gap in the popular notion of an overruling power which was occasioned by the fall of Rome, and the prospect of an interminable anarchy in the regions of the West. How long will our "divines" be silent on such points as the Antiquity of Man, the Geological Record, and even the transmutation of species? It is the justice, the omnipotence, and the veracity of God which are called in question this day, but they who sit upon the seat of authority will only discuss these matters in private, or not at all.

Meanwhile, men of science are claiming the privileges, as indeed they do the work of a priesthood, and those who look on can only marvel as they see again enacted the stolid obtuseness of the representatives of those who were found by the victorious Turk discussing the nature of the light which illuminated Mount Thabor.

We had scarcely written so far when the commencement of a new series of pamphlets called the "Sling and the Stone" was laid upon our table. Mr. Voysey has chosen for his subject "The Fall of Man and the Punishment." His discourse was preached on the 4th February of this year, and our American author says in his preface that eight years have elapsed since he wrote his book, for he did not think the public mind till now ripe for the discussion. Not only do these two therefore agree that the proper time has arrived for laying what may be called an entirely new foundation for Theology, but Mr. Voysey's criticism of the third chapter of Genesis, though negative only, is precisely to the same effect as that of his anonymous ally. "I have no hesitation in declaring that the conclusions drawn from this chapter are not warranted by the words of the narrative." He repudiates the views about man's fall deduced by St. Paul, Augustine, and Milton respectively. He acknowledges boldly the antiquity of man, and denies the alleged antiquity of the document. But these points are immaterial for our present purpose. It is of more importance to read the document correctly than to fix its date. He states in six paragraphs the received doctrines derived from the story in Genesis. He shows that Milton "makes the number of redeemed less than Augustine, while Augustine's list was immeasurably less than St. Paul's." And the error which lay at the root of all was nothing less than this—the idea that man had been born perfect, and that he fell from that state of purity and perfection, dragging with him his whole posterity under a curse." Then he shows that Adam and Eve were not created perfect; that the serpent, not the devil, is the tempter; that "there is no mention in Genesis of a curse upon man; all that is there recorded is a blessing—unless, indeed, a man be so foolish as to regard labour as a curse;" that man has been in a constant state of progress, and will be so to the end. Here is an ample field open to the true Theologian. To amend St. Paul, who certainly sometimes wrote "not as of the Lord;" to dethrone Augustine, are indeed objects of ambition. These mighty minds, even in their errors, have influenced the élite of humanity for fifteen hundred years. What if they were mistaken as to the very essence of man's position in the universe? With regard to Milton, as we said more than twelve months ago, a perfect Christiad would do more to re-establish the faith of Englishmen than all the writings of all the Fathers of the Church. To Mr. Voysey is due the credit of being the first of our own countrymen to question—not the record of Genesis, but the universal interpretation of it. Still it is the American who goes further and deeper; and his work will not be thrown away.

THE PANIC OF 1866.

The Panic of 1866, with its Lessons on the Currency Act. By Robert Baxter, Esq. (Longmans, Green, and Co.)

NOW that the excitement of the late crisis has subsided, and men of business can examine with some degree of calmness the causes which brought it about, various suggestions are being submitted for the prevention of a recurrence of what we may truly regard as a national calamity. Panics may arise from a multitude of causes, the most opposite and unlooked for; and, under certain circumstances, are not altogether undesirable. In connection with bubble enterprises, for instance, they are by no means to be classed among national evils. When a crowd of heedless individuals pursue wealth without the slightest regard to the laws that regulate its acquisition, the collapse of some unlucky wight will create

just that amount of wholesome terror necessary to awaken his companions to a sense of their folly; and if they scramble out of danger with affrighted looks and in undignified haste, the beholders may be excused if they seem to enjoy the exhibition. Whatever may have been the ruling element of the Panic of May last—whether a mistrust of the money-lending fraternity and financiers extraordinary, or of private banks which had expanded into butterfly companies, the excitement was intensified, although perhaps not produced, by a well-grounded fear that our currency is insufficient to meet a sudden demand. In other words, there were no means of converting Consols or other unquestionable securities into notes, and many wealthy banking firms were quaking in the fear that their solvency would thereby be called in question, although it would have been equally just to doubt that of a man who, possessing a bank note, is unable to give change for a half-crown. The latter, however, can exhibit the evidence of his solvency, and is, so far, in a better position than the banker, who is precluded from displaying his securities on his counter to reassure his customers. No one can dispute that in cases of this kind it is highly desirable some means should be provided to avert a catastrophe. The question—yet unanswered—is, what are those means? Mr. Baxter, who uses the term "*currency panic*" to designate the recent crisis—(in truth, all panics of any extent and duration must culminate in a "*currency panic*;")—would call in the aid of the Legislature, which alone should regulate the currency, to supply any sudden demand for a circulating medium. "The Bank of England," he would say, "is a business concern like any other bank, and has business interests which, it is not impossible, may at times be antagonistic to the general weal; but to this trading firm are delegated powers which should belong exclusively to the administrators of the State. In a word, we must have a national instead of a bank issue of notes." This is a proposition which has already often been made, but Mr. Baxter treats it in a manner so lucid, concise, and argumentative, and, without over-crowding his figures, brings so many stubborn statistics to support his views, that, if not convinced, few will be ready with a reply. Of course, Mr. Baxter attacks the Bank Act of 1844. He contends that it utterly fails at the precise point where it should be most effectively operative; and urges that even if it be conceded that it was adequate to the circumstances and requirements of twenty years since, it possesses but little power to counteract the adverse and disturbing influences that affect the Money Market of to-day. We cannot, however, allow that the Act is altogether bad because, under certain conditions its operation is suspended, for be it remembered this suspension is in the discretion of the Government for the time being, and not in that of a community of bankers and merchants forming the Bank Committee, who might abuse the privilege were it open to them to decide when an extended issue is desirable or imperative. But while we hold that the difficulty of framing the much-abused Act of 1844 has been underrated, Mr. Baxter, and those who regard the currency question from his point of view, will find in this very difficulty an argument for the relegation to the State of one of its most important functions, a difficulty which they will protest would never have existed had there been no endeavour to invest a banking concern with the responsibilities and duties of a State Department. To others, any leaning towards a national issue is regarded as a tendency to national ruin and disgrace, and they are unable to conceive any means whereby the mischief of an unlimited paper currency can be prevented or the issue itself controlled. Mr. Baxter argues that the powers exercised under the Bank Act, in respect of the change of the rate of interest, instead of equalising the price of money, is the real source of the constant variation, and that its repeated application is a confession of weakness, causing a chronic sensitiveness, the very reverse of a healthy condition of the Money

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Market. That an altered state of things prevails now, compared with that existing in 1844, must be acknowledged by all who have given the currency question the most cursory attention, and, however unwillingly, it must be allowed that the Bank of England also does not retain that prominence it once so proudly held; not that it has been decaying whilst other banks have been merely preserving their existence, but because it has been comparatively at a stand-still, when the great joint stock banks have, mainly by allowing interest on deposits, attained to a gigantic growth. A few figures will attest this. In 1830 the deposits in all the banks of the United Kingdom scarcely exceeded 30 millions; in 1866 they have attained to the enormous sum of 350 millions. In 1844 the private deposits in the Bank of England reached 8 millions, and those in the five great joint-stock banks were nearly 8 millions. In 1865-6 the Bank of England's private deposits amounted to 13 millions, while those of four London joint-stock banks amounted to 70 millions. Thus, while in 1846 the Bank of England, in private business, was equal to all the London joint-stock banks, there are now three such banks, each of which has more such business by nearly 50 per cent., and the fourth has an equal business. Again, our imports and exports—usually called the trade of the country—has grown from 134 millions in 1844, to 489 millions in 1865, thus, speaking roundly, the country is doing three times the business to-day that it was doing 22 years ago. But what of the currency and its expansion to keep pace with this tremendous growth? In 1844, our note circulation, both of the Bank of England and all other banks, was 35 millions; in 1856, 36 millions; and in 1865, 38 millions. Besides this, our gold circulation probably does not exceed 70 millions. Gold being a cumbersome circulating medium, the business of the country, which amounts to nearly 10 millions a day, is, by the aid of the Clearing House, chiefly transacted in a paper currency, *i. e.*, notes, bills, and cheques. But the whole of our notes being only 40 millions (and this in time of panic is the only safe medium) are thus turned over every four days; and Mr. Baxter remarks, "If the bankers were alarmed, and impounded in notes only 10 per cent of their 350 millions of deposits, 35 out of the 40 millions would be locked up, and if the public became alarmed and began to hoard bank notes, the same effect would be produced, the current of circulation would be arrested, and business brought to a stand-still." These facts are significant, and one of the lessons they should teach in connection with the late panic is, that disastrous as it proved, it was confined within comparatively narrow limits; and that, with our present insufficient appliances for the expansion of the currency, had there at that time been a general depression of trade, or a foreign war, the consequences must have been deplorable in the extreme. The whole subject of the Currency is but little understood, but no reader will peruse Mr. Baxter's able and interesting essay without being at least convinced that it is a matter of the highest importance; and that, whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the best remedy, provision of some kind should at once be made; or, at no distant date, we shall be attempting to legislate in the midst of a disaster, and learn, perhaps too late, "the lesson of the Panic of 1866."

FAMILY PAPERS.

Social Life in Former Days, Second Series. Illustrated by Letters and Family Papers. By E. Dunbar Dunbar, 8vo, pp. 199. (Edmonston and Douglas.)

WE are glad to find, from the very short preface to this handsome volume, that the public welcome accorded to its predecessor has encouraged Mr. Dunbar to publish this companion series. The second document concerns the appointment of the first Baronet of Nova Scotia. This order was instituted by Charles I., in 1625, and was to be conferred on such gentlemen of good birth as should assist Sir William Alexander, of Menstrie, in

the plantation of a colony in that country. Nothing could be more mercenary than this transaction between his subjects and the "fountain of honor." The first Baronet was a second son of the twelfth Earl of Sutherland, Sir Robert Gordon, of Kynmonowie, and he paid down three thousand merks Scots, a sum equivalent to about £166, as did all the others. Some passages from a letter, signed "You know who I am," in the handwriting of Sir John Seton, dated from London, the 6th February, 1644, are interesting:—

The King, our master, is still led away with that malignant Counsell at Oxford, and they are so perverse that they will not have him to acknowledge this Parliament to be a Parliament. The Spanisch faction orders all matters at Courte,—Bristell, Dickbie, Cottinton, Porter, I should have said first, the Queen and the Dutches of Buckinghame. My Lord of Antrim has gotten a comission to go to Irland, and is gone 14-dayes agoe, with Dan. Oneil as his Leiffenant, both of them made Bedchambermen, the one a gentleman, the other a groom, and they are to rayse thirty thousand Irish bloodhounds, and to invad Scotland. I houp this wicked desein, amongst the rest, shall prosper according to there ends, which is to destroy religion.

The rich Lord Pawlet, having lent the King manie thousand pounds, and had a great command, because he was not active enuf, and had no more monie, is cassired and in a cloud, and my Lord Biron in his place; his Lordship is now retired to Bristoll. Manie would come in to the Parliament, if they could come without danger; Sir Edward Diring and one other are come. My Lords of Holland and Bedford ran away to the King when the Parliament was low, but they were so abused at Oxford that they returned with schame anuf, and now they have taken the Covenant, but are not admitted to the house; they say that none that fled away from the Parliament, shall be received again.

We must make room for this account of a wedding in the eighteenth century. The happy pair were Lord Strathmore, and Lady Susan Cochrane, daughter of the Earl of Dundonald:—

Least you have not got a particular account of my Lord Strathmore's marriage, I will give you the best I can. He was the fondest lover that ever I saw, and, I believe, as fond a husband. He has got a very fine woman, I am persuaded, and, I think, extream handsome; she has a mighty pritty face, but indeed the siklyest pale one that can be; she is tall, well shaped, and has a graceful easie genteel air. In my oppinion, take her altogether, she is not inferiour to her sister, Lady Katharine, the famous beauty; but the men are not of that mind, but many of the ladys are, and they are certainly nicer judges. My Lady Strathmore had a blue and silver rich stuff gown and petecoat; a blue silk, trimmed to the pocket-holes with silver net; and a pale yellow, trimmed with two row of open silver lace, about three nails deep each; a green satin, trimmed with close and open silver lace, which she had before her marriage. She was married in white; her fine Brussels-lace she got from London; and she bought a great deal of lace at Edinburgh. She made no appearance after her marriage, except seeing the archers, for their coach was not come down from London, and they staid but a few days in town. Her necklace is a very fine one as I have seen this great while, but her earring and other jewells were not come from London at that time.

And this must be set off by an invitation to a funeral by the Earl of Sutherland, who "thought that one good turn deserved another":—

Dunrobine, the 29 July 1638.

Right Worshipful,—The Lord having upon the 29th instant removed my consort from her pilgrimage to her eternal rest in the bosom of her Redimer, and, purposing through His good will to have her corps interd at Dornach, upon Tusday, the 10th of Agust, I doe intret your worship may be here at Dunrobine, be 8 a cloke the day forsaide, for doing her the last honore by convoieng her corps to the said burial-please, which will doe me ane singulare courtisie and ingadge me to doe the lyke upon ocesion; and remenss, right worshipful, your worship's servant and coosin,

J. SOUTHERLAND.

But we can find no space for a very interesting account of East New Jersey by Gawen Laurie, Deputy-Governor of the province. It is contained in a letter written on the spot,

and dated March 26th, 1684, but of which the address is lost. We recommend our American readers to buy the book if for this piece alone. Servants were as scarce then as they are now in America. They do not work "so much by a third-part as they doe in England, and feed much better." Their "wages are not under two shillings a day, beside victuals," and the Governor asks boldly for "some hundred men."—In fact, the letter might be written almost word for word this current year, were it only dated from Minnesota or Iowa. The will also of George Gordon, a New Jersey Settler, has a very pleasing touch in it:—"And my earnest desyre is that my sword be sent home to my said brother, Sir John, with the first convenient occatione." An indenture between John Dickson, and the same George Gordon, dated 30th July, 1685, we give, as shewing the terms on which servants were imported:—

To pay for his passage, and to find and allow him meat and drink during the said tyme, and cloaths in manner efterspecefiet, to witt—two sute of leather in the four years, or one sute of course cloaths yearly; two pair of hose yearly; two shirts, two pair of shoes, two waistcoatts, and two pair of drawers, and four neckcloaths, yearly; and, at the end of the said four years, the soume of Four Pounds Sterling, or the value of it in the product of the countrie, or land to the value therof, as the said John Dickson shall think best.

Sir William Gordon, of Invergordon, Baronet, and Member of Parliament, seems to have been a formidable person to enter into partnership with; for in his own house he "violently fell, by himself and accomplices, upon him the said Ludovick Gordon, the deponent, and, after tearing of his cloaths and geting him down to the ground, did by plain southreiff and robbery, bereave him, the deponent, of all his writes and papers about him, the most part whereof concerned the partnership betwix Sir William Gordon and the deponent, the contents and value whereof did amount to eighteen hundred pundts Scots or thereby, for which he, the deponent, never got any reparation or payment from the said Sir William Gordon, or any in his name, in respect the said Sir William Gordon was a rich and powerful man, and he, the deponent, not able to prosecute his clame at law to the final conclusion thereof."

A curious instance is given of the popular belief that a student of the Black Art frequently was deprived of his shadow by the Devil. Sir Robert Gordon performed the same penance that Michael Scott compelled his attendant imp to perform, and which almost enabled Ulysses to pass for a madman; but this madness had a method in it. He ploughed up the sand when the wind blew from the east, so as to injure the property of his neighbour; but, like most wizards, he was too cunning for himself; the west wind was more prevalent, and Newton repaid him with interest. We hope Mr. Dunbar's repositories are not yet exhausted.

WASHED ASHORE.

Washed Ashore; or, the Tower of Stormount Bay. By William H. G. Kingston. 8vo, pp. 124. 3s. 6d. (Jackson, Walford & Hodder.)

THIS is a book for boys, and is intended to convey moral lessons in disguise; but Mr. Kingston, like some other well-meaning individuals who write for the young, contrives to frustrate his object by making it too apparent. Boys are the last to receive instruction by a side wind. If they must be sermonised they will submit with as good grace as may be, and be very glad when it is all over, but it is by no means supportable to boy-nature to be duped into goodness. We query whether the youth, whose mind has been washed out by "home education," and "moral suasion," would read ten pages of the "Tower of Stormount Bay," so overloaded is the book with sound advice and correct principles. There are adventures enough for a dozen stories. There are smugglers to whom kidnapping is an every-day affair; ghosts, encounters, rescues and wrecks. The language

of the smugglers, however, is very proper, and, the smuggling and kidnapping excepted, they are altogether quite respectable people. Jack Askew, the hero of the story, makes their acquaintance, and becomes a great favourite, but hitherto he has been kept in ignorance of their evil doings. One day, when they are preparing for an expedition more hazardous than usual, Jack begs to be taken with them. Permission is granted. They set off in their boat in quest of a French lugger, and, after securing a quantity of valuable contraband, encounter a revenue cutter, and are made prisoners. They are brought before a neighbouring magistrate, a Mr. Ludlow, who has formed an unfavourable impression of young Askew on account of his associating with disreputable people. The smugglers are imprisoned, but Jack is allowed the option of going to sea in a ship of war. Of course to sea he goes; but tidings by-and-bye reach his father that the ship is lost in the Pacific, and all hands drowned. To Jack's little sister, Margery, the news is heart-breaking, while the consolations of young Ludlow, the cruel magistrate's son, who is in love, in a feeble sort of way, with the child, are not at all pleasing to her. He brings her books; and among others "Robinson Crusoe," after reading which Margery is possessed with the belief that her brother is alive on some desert island. To test her young lover's devotion she beseeches him to go in search of her brother; but Ludlow refuses,—and is discarded. Most conveniently, just at this time, a smart young midshipman, Charley Blount, is "washed ashore" to take the place of Ludlow, and he, too, falls in love with Margery. He readily agrees to seek her brother, and, what is better still, after some little trouble he finds him on a coral island in the Pacific!

A search, however, in those waters must have been very pleasant with a captain who had "a roving commission to go where he pleased," and who permitted the making of calls on the inhabitants of the thousand-and-one islands, where "Charley left a number of cards, on which was written—'Jack Askew, a friend of your father's is looking for you; send to Caldo, on the coast of Peru, and he will assist you to return home.' Is it surprising that a search conducted thus should be successful? On their return, they call at other islands, where Charley is much struck with the civilised appearance of the savages, who have been subjected to missionary influences; but by-and-bye he reaches home, and claims Miss Margery, who, "on the death of her parents," marries him.

Mr. Kingston should not write stories for boys. They are not often strongly impressed by Quixotic expeditions, or deeply interested in missionary enterprise; and when they have won a prize, waiting for the death of some one before they possess it would be a terrible bore.

THE ACTS OF THE DEACONS.

The Acts of the Deacons: Being a Course of Lectures, Critical and Practical, on Acts 6, 7, 8, and 21, viii.—xv., in Two Books. Book I.—The Acts of St. Stephen, the Protomartyr. Book II.—The Acts of St. Philip, Evangelist. By E. M. Goulburn, D.D. Fscp. 8vo, pp. xxxiv.—408. 6s. (Rivingtons.)

WE have heard of the cant of criticism, but there is one thing still more nauseous—the cant proper—or cant of religion. At a time when everyone is investigating truth with a daring though painstaking eye, it surely would be wiser for those who profess alarm at such researches, to try in every way to show how little disquietude can be felt by those who have their faith in their heads. Mr. Goulburn's book plainly teaches us that there are two sorts of religion, and two sorts of religious persons in the world; the one a partizan faith, with members more eager to protest against other people's failings than to display their own graces; the other, willing dispassionately to carry out the work of their founder, and to seek and to save rather than to carp and to sneer. With the former kind of Christians there is much the same feeling

as there used to be in schoolboys about one Englishman being able to beat three Frenchmen; that is, they would rather have a blind, unreasoning confidence in everything they conceive to be right, than endeavour to get a faith established on solid foundations. With such persons, the least hint at anything doubtful in their axioms, is met with a cry of "let it alone, don't shake it." The more serious, if they believe anything to be really shaky, would prefer that it should be surrendered, and stick more closely to those broad features of love and charity which are, after all, the essence of Christianity. Is our faith made up of different, or has it some fixed principles of its own? The faith in the primitive Church and its perfection, seems, to many minds, to resolve itself into this opinion:—Early Christians used to meet within four unadorned walls, and were all inspired, and as nearly faultless as possible. It is assumed that everything then was in accordance with the private taste of the present orthodox Protestant now, or, ultra severe. With such men argument goes for nothing; and where a text may occur, which would be all the more easily understood by means of a little scholar-like interpretation, we are either warned to let it alone, or we are comforted with a little of the devout stock platitude, which has nothing to do with the matter. Now, in the "Acts of the Deacons," we are at once struck with the impartiality and fearlessness of the writer. Nothing is extenuated or set down in malice, and the result is that we assent to what is so pleasantly offered for observation, and are weaned from that jealous feeling of objecting to what is laid down from its now *excathedrâ* tone. The "Acts of the Deacons" is a work of very great value, and, if only from its fairness, will be likely to prove of service to those who are inclined to doubt, often more because of the dictatorial unreasoning method of teaching obtruded, than from any real infidelity. The following sentence will show the bold, honest way in which matters are handled:—"As for the moral and spiritual perfection, which some persons conceive to have attached to the early Church, it is a mere fancy, opposed to all the facts." Nor is this said with anything but the truest desire to advance the interests of the Church. It would be well if we had more such theologians, rather than those who, albeit, Protestants in name, have very much the same spirit as Henry VIII. when he told some heretic—"If ye believe not as we do ye must be burned." We want more such men, who can, without surrendering any of their own strongholds, write thus:—"Not every new idea and practice, turned up by the restless spade of modern inquiry, is a bad idea and practice. And as for keeping the platform of popular theology what it was half a century, or a quarter of a century ago, it is impossible." Indeed, we find interspersed throughout the work many proofs of the Catholic spirit of the writer—using the term in its best sense—as opposed to bigotry. One admirable sentence should be written over many a popular preacher's pulpit in church or tabernacle:—"What returns to man in the way of adulation generally took its rise from man in the way of display." Apart from the excellence of the work in the special treatment of the subject, there are many valuable *obiter dicta* on almost all the great theological questions of the day. Both from its good sense and its spirit, the work is one of the most readable to doubters, and still more one that commends itself to those who are humble and reverent students of the Divine Word.

THE HOUSE OF GOURNAY.

Three Hundred Years of a Norman House: The Barons of Gournay, from the Tenth to the Thirteenth Century. With Genealogical Miscellanies. By James Hannay. 8vo., pp. 282. (Tinsley Brothers.)

IT shows a very strange ignorance, in a contemporary, of what is meant by "birth," to assert that believers in pedigree are in any way bound to explain the intellectual and moral position of what it calls the Royal

caste. Royal families are no more noble, in the heraldic sense, than simple gentlemen. They have become a caste during the last century or so, more from the jealousy of their subjects, than from any idea that eagles ought to mate with eagles alone. Nor can it be supposed, for a moment, that birth is favoured with any exception to the general law that intermarriage with near blood relations will induce a proclivity to those diseases which have at any time manifested themselves in the common ancestry. Indeed, it might be argued the other way, that the only reason why Royal families amongst whom such constant interbreeding has existed for several generations have not succumbed to that pernicious practice, is because the higher qualities elaborated by the habit of command, and the best possible culture, have enabled them to survive what would long since have condemned the offspring of peasants to the jail and the workhouse. One proof of vitality cannot be denied to them. They usually have numerous families. In the struggle for existence this must have weight, and it is remarkable that the two Napoleons, whom the same critic quotes as examples against the theory of birth, have only had one child each. Nor can we admit that the capacity of the members of Royal houses is at all below the average. Louis XVIII., and Louis Philippe, both of whom belonged to, perhaps, the longest legitimate male line, whether Royal or private, in Europe, were men whose individuality of character has never been disputed. But we need not discuss the point with those who do not understand what is meant by "blood." Rather let us explain what we believe the true theory.

As all men must have an equally long descent, it is fair to ask why any special advantage should be thought to attach to those who can reckon up the names of their ancestors for ten, or eight, or six centuries. We hold the real advantage consists exactly in that very privilege of knowing what position your ancestors have held, and of being brought up, more or less, under the same influences. Their intermarriage with other individuals not too closely allied in blood, but of similar position and similar habits, must, unless heredity be altogether a nullity, tend to produce an offspring which will be free from the danger of aggravating disorders or weaknesses which have become constantly reproduced in the same family, and at the same time to strengthen the generic qualities of the race, or caste, to use an odious expression, which determined its position during the ages which have cemented our civilization. French physiologists have produced a great deal of evidence lately to show that the decline of the *noblesse* began when they intermarried for the sake of money with the *roturiers*: and it is notorious that the peerages of most of our English lawyers, who have so often been members of the middle-class, have died out in a much shorter time than those of the old houses. We are far from asserting that a cross may not occasionally be introduced into any family with advantage. But it should be done with just as much discretion as a "cross" would be introduced into a line of sheep, or racers. The amalgamation of certain elements cannot be beneficial, though in so complex a constitution as that of man it may be impossible to predict what the effect of any particular union might be. The safer course, therefore, is consecrated under the maxim "like to like;" and the wisdom of the practice is confirmed by the numerous instances in which lands are still held all over Europe by the undoubted descendants of those who possessed them up to and beyond a period when all documentary evidence fails. We doubt much if the theory of "birth" is really in a bit less credit now than it ever has been. But if it be true that more and better work is done now by "new men" than by those of old families, the reason is not far to seek. First, the demand for good work of all kinds has enormously increased of late years. Sir Evelyn Shirley has shown that there are scarcely more than three hundred families in England, including peers, who can trace a

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legitimate male descent as persons of condition up to a period previous to the sixteenth century. These families are contributing far more than their numerical proportion to those who lead society. But the roll of names in any profession, or in any science, will at once show how impossible it is to expect them to outshine the multitude of good hearts and heads who approach them more or less in social position. No doubt there are many who trace through females an equally gentle descent. But some of these conceal their claims because their more immediate ancestors have passed through humbler grades of life. Others are ignorant of the "good blood" to which, perhaps, they owe their rise. Others, again, are counted as of the "people," and their claims considered absurd, or ignored in spite of every proof. But there is another reason to which due prominence has never, so far as we are aware, been yet given. All who believe in birth mean by that an hereditary predisposition and presumptive superiority for the offices of leadership and command, induced by a long practice of the peculiar faculties necessary for those offices in their ancestry. This power was never denied to the "nobility and gentry" of England, so long as it was governed by feudal principles. If those principles are suddenly thrown off by a nation, as by the French, in 1789, it is nothing against the theory of birth that those who are great by and through them, should be unable suddenly to accommodate themselves to the new state of things. On the contrary, an excessive versatility of principle would be an argument very much the other way. Where as in the case of Mirabeau, a special education had somewhat weakened the feudal sentiment, the inherent power of leadership asserted itself supreme. And in the case of Napoleon, the slumbering pride of the Italian Buonapartes may have had much to do with the reactionary policy of the little lieutenant of artillery. Our old families cannot be blamed for not grasping at once the new principle by which leadership and position must eventually be secured. Yet they seem to hold their own. Perhaps the purity of race would be better shown by their extinction. Such, at least, was the opinion of one of the ablest of the modern Bourbons, King Bomba of Naples. When Louis Philippe advised him to grant the Neapolitans a constitution, he replied that the Bourbons were old, and must continue to govern in the old way, and must stand or fall with the old system. Here spoke "blood" at all events, and the speaker died on the throne. A state of transition, such as Europe is now passing through, from feudal to federal and commercial or even communistic principles cannot be effected without the disappearance of some old names, whose bearers are so identified with the faculties which have befitted high place for a thousand years that they cannot alter; but there are oaks which can bend as well as break, and all the monarchs of the forest are not likely to be torn up from the roots before the new wood has become in its turn a stately grove.

Our introduction has been longer than we intended; yet we have stopped in the midst of what we had to say. The House of Gournay, so far as its fortunes are detailed by Mr. Hannay, goes far to support a just respect for pedigree. Eudes, or Hugh, the historic founder, was a companion of Rollo, the Norseman. His descendants became possessed of large baronies, which, unfortunately for them, lay on the border ground of the countries which, under the names of France and Normandy, were long ruled by hostile sovereigns. The position added greatly to the dignity of the House, and must early have compelled them to practise a more subtle diplomacy than many of the rough barons, who came of the Vi-Kings. They, in fact, surmounted a state of transition, and hence the perpetuation of their race to the present day. Mr. Hannay's sketch of Renaud de Gournay falls in here appropriately enough:—

He fell just into the transition time,—the stage in which the Norman gentleman was developing out of the Norse sea-king,—which makes it the more

difficult to realise his existence. One thing we may be quite certain of—it was an active existence. In war, his lands would be among the first overrun; the local government of his barony would require constant care; abbot and priest would fly to him for counsel one day, for help the next. The duke's court, too, had its claims on a lord of Gournay; and many a time his horse's hoofs would be heard clattering through the narrow streets of old Rouen, or over the green sward to the duke's *maison de plaisance* at Lillebonne. His domestic life can only be dimly fancied: there would be plenty of hunting and hawking, begun early, and wound up with feasting and wine. A rough, animal existence it would be, but strongly pious, for all that, and always tinged with reverence for priest and monk,—a deep religious fear checking the inborn pride of race and the habitual and unquestioned position of command. What a training for a man,—a life-long responsibility of power, and development of self-reliance and activity! It must have passed into the very bones of a family, and moulded it into a special type which, indeed, we can see to have been the result among the old nobilities of Europe.

Though "Old Hugh," as he is familiarly termed by the chroniclers, fought at Hastings, it is his son, Hugh III., who appears in Domesday-Book, the first English "Gurney." But the House remained essentially a Norman one. More than one of them went to the Crusades, and were entrusted with commands which required something more than animal courage, such, for example, as the division of the spoil of Acre, when captured by Cœur-de-Lion. At last the time came when Philip wanted the Norman, and John wanted the English fiefs of the great House, and all the versatility of the most energetic *novus homo* could not have preserved both. Hugh V. very nearly lost both. The tale of his misfortunes is the most interesting piece of family history in the book. For a long time he lived in exile from both countries. Still he was important enough to get Otho IV. of Germany to intercede for him, and in 1205 he passed into England with his wife and children to do homage for his fiefs, and become an Englishman. In his son the old direct line terminated, and the representatives are thus briefly summed up:—

"Old Hugh" was one of the foremost gentlemen of the eleventh century. The Monk of Bec was at least the friend of Anselm. Gerard took a brilliant share in the First Crusade. The career of Hugh IV. was capricious and unintelligible, but it was conspicuous and important. And though the life of Hugh V. terminated unsatisfactorily, he had played a great part under the banner of Cœur-de-Lion. But in the last male chief of the line its life ebbed obscurely away—as the Rhine ends its long course of historical glory, a quiet Dutch canal.

In many of his remarks Mr. Hannay reminds us of Carlyle, who, whilst affecting to despise "Dryasdust," has shown us an excellent example of what Dryasdust ought to be in his account of the Hohenzollerns. The documents at command, or rather the want of them, has allowed more indulgence for the fancy: but the back-bone, the actual pedigree, is established beyond controversy, and round this are arranged many descriptions taken from chroniclers and unfamiliar sources, which make up a book that will please any one, whether a believer in the *sangre azul* or not. The volume also contains a good article on "British Family Histories," which all antiquarians should consult, and a special paper on the "Temple Family," which has already appeared in print.

GIFT-BOOKS OF THE SEASON.

PERHAPS the most gorgeous, and at the same time the cheapest library for children has been prepared this season in the North. "The New Half-crown Reward Books" of Mr. Nimmo are a sight to see. They are adapted for all tastes—Tales of Missionaries, Tales of Wars, Tales of the Sea, and Tales of Women's Lives. Some of them we shall examine more minutely another time. Those who cannot gain the highest prizes may, perhaps, be fortunate enough to get an "Eighteenpenny Reward Book."

These merely contain a smaller number of pages, and are addressed to somewhat younger minds. So far as the splendour of "gift-books" goes, they are essentially equal. Nor are still smaller children forgotten. The good old "Popular Nursery Tales" of "The Children in the Wood," "Little Red Riding Hood," and others which every one's memory will supply, are here in large quarto, and all for sixpence each. The illuminated wrappers alone are worth the money, yet besides each has eight full-page illustrations, from which the text could be recovered again were it lost, so completely do they tell their story. As a companion to these, Mr. Nimmo has thrown in "John Gilpin." He, like the hobby-horse, will never be forgot. And his jolly face reminds us that a very clever parody upon him, "Dame Perkins and Her Grey Mare," was published only last month by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. The "Dame's" adventures may be imagined, but here the "Grey Mare" proves the better horse. Before parting with Mr. Nimmo, we must not forget "Roses and Holly," one of those capricious collections of poems in producing which all the publishers of the United Kingdom seem to vie with each other. Some prefer chronological, some alphabetical order; and some a classification of subjects. Here the editor prefers "disorder;" and who shall say him nay? Prose pieces, too, he throws in. Which are the roses, and which is the holly? Plates of course are not wanting, nor is the comic element forgotten. We have often read of Mrs. Partington before, but never conjured up her bodily presence vividly enough until our eye fell on Mr. Doyle's capital engraving. The landscapes also have the merit of indicating to some extent the seasons, which, as we shall observe below, is not often the case in the "picture-books" of 1866.

Messrs. Routledge & Sons provide also bountifully for the young:—First, we have "Griset's Grotesques; or Jokes drawn on wood, with Rhymes by Tom Hood." There seems to be a sly cut throughout the book at some African traveller, but the clue is rather difficult to catch. The beasts are always made to get the best of it. The most comic picture is that of "Heron in Love;" and some of the poetry has given us a good laugh. All boys will beg for a present of "Routledge's Every Boy's Annual," edited by one of the firm. It contains sketches of the two great public schools, Eton and Harrow, lots of chess problems for the studios, picture stories without end; and is handsomely bound in red cloth, with gilt edges. What more can boys desire? Then we have nearly as big a volume of "Hans Christian Andersen's Stories for the Household," with 220 illustrations. The most interesting of all is "The Story of My Life" by the author himself. Bound in purple cloth, inlaid with gilding, and with a large medallion of white calf for the title in the centre, "Wayside Poesies," will glitter on many a boudoir table. We cannot, however, think the style of etching the Brothers Dalziel have throughout employed altogether satisfactory. The landscapes represent no season, unless an epoch of perpetual snow. This criticism does not apply to the interiors, or the purely water-scenes. But the same remarks do apply to the companion or rival volume of "Idyllic Pictures," published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin. Something of the same fantastic taste may be observed in a far more splendid volume than either. But "Two Centuries of Song," for which we are indebted to Messrs. Sampson Low & Co., goes far to redeem the credit of 1866 for Christmas books. The arabesque borders to the beautifully-toned pages are in exquisite taste and of high typographic merit. Of these there are sixteen patterns. Larger full-page illustrations are not wanting, and the sides, glittering in all the glory of green and gold, are secured by a handsome clasp. The letter-press is a collection of the choicest *Vers de Societe*, beginning with "The Shepherd's Resolution" of George Wither, and ending with living authors.

Amongst gift-books may also be judiciously reckoned "Derbyshire Gatherings," by Josep

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Barlow Robinson, a sculptor of Derby. It is a handsome quarto bound in red, black, and gold, and contains faithful likenesses of living and dead Derbyshire celebrities, with memoirs of them. There is an engraving from a curious old picture of Wingfield Manor House, in which Mary of Scotland was so long confined, and a full-length portrait of Florence Nightingale, whose home is so well known to the tourists of Matlock. Not only the wise and great, like Flamstead and Chantrey, are here commemorated, but also the eccentric, as "Daft Sammy" of Castleton, and "Old Rowley," of whom no record but his portrait survives, as he walked the streets of Derby exactly one hundred years ago.

(To be continued.)

Volcans et Tremblements de la Terre, par Zurcher et Margollé. (Hachette.)—This last volume of the *Bibliothèque des Merveilles* is in no way inferior to its predecessors. It commences with an account of Vesuvius, and an imaginary picture of the destruction of Pompeii. It passes in review all the active volcanoes of the globe, interspersing the text with copious illustrations. Amongst these we may notice one of the curious little pyramidal craters in Iceland, which are hollow inside, and are made use of as sheep-folds, or even, when near a town, for ornamental gardens. There is also a sketch of the Japanese Fousi-Yama, strongly resembling the Matterhorn in outline. Then there is a chapter on extinct volcanoes, and on those of the moon. Earthquakes and submarine commotions are properly included in this collection of wonders.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—In your number of November 10th, Mr. William Fothergill Cooke, in a frank and forcible letter addressed to Professor Wheatstone, challenges that gentleman to refute his statements as to their respective shares in the introduction of practical telegraphy, or to acknowledge their truth. Your readers impatiently await the Professor's reply, but he makes no sign.

This fact is, I think, the best possible evidence that Mr. Cooke's position is unassailable; but I venture to assure the Professor that a tacit acknowledgment, in this instance, scarcely harmonizes with one's views of professional honesty; and, further, that every day he allows to pass without making the tardy *amende honorable* tends to confirm the growing belief that Mr. Cooke has been defrauded of his title to public recognition, and establishes a painful stigma upon the reputation of Mr. Wheatstone.

I am, Sir, &c.,

Notting Hill, Nov. 28.

G. H.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—It is difficult to realize that the invention and establishment of the electric telegraph should be in our own time a subject of argumentative discussion. This most startling and novel application of science to human ends is scarcely yet thirty years old. The names, the circumstances, that accompanied its advent are in the memory of most of us, the documentary and incidental records are within the reach of all. It must be that the very familiarity we have with this wonderful agency has blunted the discernment by which otherwise we should, as a nation and as individuals, have given public honours to the author of such a national and public benefit. In the family the electric telegraph has become a "household word," bringing far absent members into sympathetic contact of heart and mind in the same instant of time. Of commerce it has become the very life-blood; it has given it that "new pulse, unknown before," which will henceforth be essential to its progressive life. It has gathered the civilized world together into instant and direct intercourse; a network of sympathetic intelligence encircles the earth, and we feel as though it had always so existed; only when a first pulsation from a new continent responds to ours, as in the recent grand o'erleaping of the Atlantic, do we reflect how incalculable a boon to public and private life was the application of electricity to the transmission of words. Imagine it removed; there is an ebb of centuries in the tide of civilization. Since the introduction of printing, there has not arisen an agency so beneficial and ubiquitous.

Lectures on electricity had been from the com-

mencement of this century a popular feature in colleges and public schools. Early in 1836, a model of Baron Schelling's instrument for showing signals by the deflection of a needle was exhibited at Heidelberg to his pupils, by M. Müncke, a professor of that university. Among them was a young English officer of the Indian service, Mr. William Fothergill Cooke. This young soldier had, during his furlough from India, taken up the study of anatomy, and was then engaged in modelling his dissections for the museum of his father, a professor in the rising University of Durham. This "telegraphic toy" was, from the hour of that lecture, destined to be the foundation of the wonder of this inventive age. The model consisted of a magnetic needle suspended by a silk thread in a galvanometer coil of wire; to the thread of suspension was fixed a wafer, marked on one side with a spot, on the other with a cross; the wafer, needle, and coil were all in the same vertical plane, placed edgewise to the spectator. When a galvanic current was made to pass in one direction along the wire the needle turned and shewed the cross, when the current passed in the other direction the spot appeared. Similar experiments had been for many years shewn in London, St. Petersburg, and elsewhere; but, on the occasion above recorded, one of the group went his way full of thought. The grand possibility of a universal electric telegraph had flashed upon his imagination.

For four days, and as many nights, his excited mind meditated over its realization. Within six weeks from the date of that lecture Mr. Cooke was on his way to England, having completed the models and drawings for a practical telegraph. On the narrow foundation of what he had seen in Müncke's lecture-room he had raised his superstructure. He united in one circuit a series of terminal and intermediate instruments, each with its set of keys and alarum. The alarum was put in action by removing a detent from a clockwork alarum, by means of a voltaic magnet excited by the electric current. Each instrument was in itself complete, giving and receiving signals over an extended line of stations, representing before the signaller and recipients exactly the same indications or signals. In 1841, Mr. Cooke writes—"This united reciprocal property is the basis of electric telegraph, and inseparable from the practical system. It has been my leading principle throughout, and has impressed itself even upon the form of my instruments; their distinguishing character, from first to last, being, that my keys and signal have always been joined together into one instrument, and the several instruments into one reciprocal system."

A few words should be said about the novel application of mechanism to telegraphy which was suggested to Mr. Cooke's mind by his own alarum. He narrates—"The first idea suggested itself to me on the 17th March, 1836, on my way from Heidelberg to Frankfurt. The striking advantage held out by the mechanical, in comparison with the galvanometer, form was that, whereas the mode of giving signals by combinations of magnetic needles involved the necessity and expense of several wires, on the other hand, if the electric power could be confined to the office of causing suitable interruptions or divisions in any kind of motion derived from an independent source, the necessity for a plurality of circuits would be avoided, the diversity of the signals would be deferred upon the Mechanism." By this means he made a single circuit produce the representation of any number of signals. This invention has been the parent of the dial and printing telegraphs. While Mr. Cooke was occupied in constructing his Mechanical Electric Telegraph, he wrote an interesting sketch on the application of his plans to a general system of telegraphy for government, commercial and private purposes, with a description of his detector for discovering faults in the extended system of wires for a national undertaking. This pamphlet is printed at the end of Mr. Cooke's second volume. It elicited, in January, 1837, from Dr. Reynolds, of Liverpool, to whom it was submitted when Mr. Cooke was arranging for the introduction of his telegraph on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, the following reports:—"How the power or agency of electricity can be applied to communicate signals to the extent required I cannot conceive, and on this point Mr. Cooke is silent, no doubt intentionally, as in this evidently consists the essence of his invention. He appears to have bestowed much thought and labour on the subject, and some of his contrivances are very ingenious. I was particularly struck with his mode of detecting the defective place should the wire be broken at any part. It is for this purpose he makes use of the dial or index given in his book."

All the above transactions took place previous to Mr. Cooke's introduction to Professor Wheatstone.

In February, 1837, Mr. Cooke applied to Professor Faraday, and afterwards to Dr. Roget, for advice respecting the proportions of the electromagnet used in his alarum and mechanical telegraph. These gentlemen proposed his seeing Mr. Wheatstone on the subject, as he had at his disposal a considerable length of wire for investigating the phenomena of electricity.

Mr. Cooke had his first interview with Mr. Wheatstone on the 27th February, 1837, and shortly after shewed to him his instruments, drawings, and plans necessary to work out a national telegraph. Mr. Wheatstone had at this time no instrument for practical communication, but was so strongly impressed with the applicability of Mr. Cooke's plans and inventions (to the latter of which he added the vertical needle in place of the horizontal), that the result was a partnership between the two gentlemen, and a joint patent was applied for the following May, Mr. Wheatstone giving his written consent that Mr. Cooke's name should have precedence in the partnership, and in various other ways acknowledging Mr. Cooke as the leading spirit and originator of the enterprise.

About this time, Mr. Wheatstone invented the diamond form of dial, on which signals were shown by the conveyance of two or more needles to each signal. This elegant form was never in use, but the two instruments originally made for the experiment at Euston may still be seen at King's College.

In 1841 Mr. Cooke discovered independently that the earth acted as an excellent conductor of electricity. This fact had, as he afterwards learnt, been previously discovered by our own countryman, Sir William Watson, in 1747, and later by Steinheil. Hitherto electric wires had been at great trouble and cost insulated in the ground. Mr. Cooke now patented his improved system of suspending them in the air, a system which has since followed the telegraph throughout all lands.

From the hour of conceiving his great work, Mr. Cooke threw the whole force of his indomitable energy to the accomplishment of it. The profession that before had been attractive to his ardent and active mind was unhesitatingly abandoned; every anticipation of former days was obliterated by the dazzling vista he saw in the successful issue of the new paths he would hew out. Unaided and alone he elaborated his systems of instruments and signals, and when indebted to a man of known science for help over an electrical difficulty, he generously offered him a partnership, and an equal place with himself in the honors of the enterprise. Mr. Cooke's instruments were not, indeed, perfect for their purposes, but had he been a "scientific professor," and not a great deal besides, the public might have waited another twenty years listening to electrical lectures.

The inventions were but the first part of his work; more arduous, and at times seemingly hopeless, were the difficulties of getting his project attended to and appreciated by men of influence. The indifference of Government, the postponements of railway committees, the *vis inertia* of the persons he had to propitiate and animate, the dullness and mistakes of the mechanics he had to instruct and supervise, many that knew him at this period can well vouch for.

It must have been more than common generalship, that enabled him, in addition to the above, and to the demands of an overwhelming correspondence, directly and personally, to superintend every part of the new construction.

If the temper and tact of a true gentleman, assisted in smoothing the obstacles in his path throughout the day, unflinching resolution could alone have nerved the strongest frame, to superintend his relays of workmen throughout a great part of the night. The ultimate success of the electric telegraph is well known to the public, but the public do not know how much its success has been the work of this one man.

I venture to say that few men would dare to silence a species of detraction by so frank and complete an exposure of their financial transactions as he has done. Every document at the time of writing, thought to be strictly private and personal, has been laid open to the full light of the public scrutiny, and what is disclosed? Just what anyone acquainted with Mr. Cooke must have been confident of, without seeing, that in every instance, his dealings were open, honourable, and largely liberal.

No one who has ever been in the society of Mr. W. F. Cooke, can have failed to observe, that he is a man of the calibre required for the carrying out of a great work. Possessing a mind at once

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perspicacious and penetrating, enthusiastic and energetic, his faculty of seizing a vague idea, and shaping it for useful application, is inherent, and was by no means exhausted when he had accomplished the success of the electric enterprise. No man better than he can command the courage for a difficult undertaking, and carry it on while a point of perfectability remains unattained.

That the illiberal influence which has pertinaciously sought to deprive Mr. Cooke of the honours justly due to him may be overcome, must be the sincere wish of all lovers of truth.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
27th November, 1866. W. J. P.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—Reference has been made in *The Reader* and also in the *Saturday Review* to the highly-meritorious plan of Mr. Ronalds, published in 1823, for a telegraph to work by frictional electricity. Permit me to mention that Mr. Cooke did justice to Mr. Ronalds in the concluding passages of his pamphlet of 1856, which I extract:—

"In what does the merit of the electric telegraph really consist? If the invention were to be described generally in a few words, how would you describe it? Might it not be called an application of a few known principles, by means of a few simple contrivances, to produce a practical result, which the experiments of scientific men, though their attention had been directed to the subject for a long series of years, had failed to produce? The merit of the invention must then consist, in a very great degree at least, in the *practical realization* of that which had been before an idea or an experiment. To the merit, such as it may be, of this practical realization, I have maintained, from first to last, one consistent claim. Eighteen years ago my unanswered letter of 1838 referred to it as understood and admitted. Fifteen years ago the Arbitrators solemnly awarded it to me; and it is not without cause, nor till after long forbearance, that I now expect a final confirmation of the same unpretending claim from the justice of the Public. 'There is no magic in terms,' says Mr. Wheatstone; and it is not worth discussing whether the name of 'originator, projector, or any other title as sonorous and equivocal,' sufficiently expresses my right to a position, unambiguous in itself—which Mr. Ronalds, under the favouring circumstances in which I found myself, might probably have occupied—or a gentleman at Renfrew, whose anonymous suggestion, a century in advance of his time, has recently been made public.

"The philosopher's researches into the laws of nature are essentially distinct from the labours of the practical man who applies those laws to the purposes of daily life. I may therefore consistently yield to Professor Wheatstone a high rank among those scientific men, who in several countries, entertained theoretically the idea of an improved mode of transmitting intelligence."

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Nov. 21, 1866.

W.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—I should be very sorry to involve you into printing a controversy on this vexed question, but will you kindly afford me space to correct one or two of "A. C. L.'s" misinterpretations of my text? In the first place, I distinctly stated that I have been myself annoyed by the attempts of other houses to interfere with the Lippincott editions of my novels. Indeed, it is at this moment a neck-to-neck race between Philadelphia and New York to secure the first issue of a forthcoming work of my own. Hence, "A. C. L." might have clearly gathered that I was in no way ignorant of, or desirous to ignore, similar cases to the one he cites regarding Mr. Tennyson. These are the exceptions which accompany every rule. I merely stated that American publishers can usually obtain a monopoly of a book by priority of advertisement. That they can do so is due to three things:—1st. That though there is no law to prevent twenty firms from issuing twenty editions of the same work, custom (a very weighty substitute for law all the world over), and trade interest combined, make each house see that, on the average, it will serve itself far best by not thus borrowing from its brethren. 2nd. If an American publisher gets the first supply of the market, he supplies it so largely that he does not care much who may follow him with the same wares. 3rd. If an American publisher interferes with another's commerce by bringing out a work already produced by that other, the one injured has so easy and so effective a retaliation in his hands through his power to make reprisals on any

of his foe's publications that he pleases, that it is generally recognized how a mutual courtesy in this matter always proves also, in the long run, not only the safest but the most lucrative form of business. In answer to "A. C. L.'s" charge of misrepresenting English literary feeling on the subject of copyright law, I am not aware that I attempted to represent it at all; I certainly did not consider that Mr. Trollope's letter stated the question fairly, and I merely wrote down a few facts as they occurred with myself, to prove that English writers are not invariably maltreated by Americans, as Mr. Trollope asserts. If I am to believe myself alone in receiving much generosity and justice from my Transatlantic friends, I shall be forced to believe also that my books are so unprecedently successful there that I receive unprecedently good treatment! Of course, I do not accept any such vain construction of it; I believe, on the contrary, that many English authors, if they spoke out, would corroborate my experiences. If I misrepresent them, because I say that their outcries against American publishers spring from mercenary motives, how can they disprove the accusation? The whole argument is, "Give us a copyright law, that we may insist on our hundreds and thousands being paid us, and be enabled to refuse our books if the hundreds and thousands offered are not numerous enough." Now, what can this motive possibly be except a mercenary one? It may be a very just, a very honest, a very sensible one. I do not gainsay it, but its root and its aim are both,—money. If what they desired were the circulation of their works, they have that already. But it is not this. They want the power to enforce high payments. Well, they have every atom as much right to this possibly as the fisherman has to be paid for his boat-load of herrings. But I insist that this being their motive they should frankly declare it; and not cloak their wish to swell their bank-balance under fine-English periods about international justice, intellectual rights, and all the rest of it. That hapless quotation of the labourer being worthy of his hire has been ridden to death on this subject; but I confess, though the saying is perfectly just, I do not see that literature is benefited by its professors screaming out for their dues like a set of navvies on a Saturday night. "A. C. L." with a common fault of many literary men, peevishly misquotes what has angered him, by crossing his own opinion. I never stated that an author's "desire to be paid for his work" was a "base reduction of all literary aims and desires to the one question of £. s. d." I said that scarcely anyone can dispute that Haussaye's pleasant phrase, "*on ne fait pas un livre pour y mettre son nom, mais qu'il soit lu et discuté*," suggests a nobler motive in pursuing a literary career than the governing one amongst Englishmen; which is, to make money as fast as they can by their works, and therefore to turn out any popular cant, or saleable falsification of fact, that may best serve this purpose. There is barely any writer of the present day (save one or two who get the hall-mark therefore of plenteous abuse) who would dare to pen what they knew a truth, if they felt they would, by it, endanger their pecuniary gains in the market. This, however, would lead us out to a very wide subject, with which it is not for me to intrude upon your columns. All I will remark is, that in a state of intellectual and artistic feeling in which poets, painters, and authors deem it a good joke to relate how diplomatically they turn out worthless productions as those they gracefully term "pot-boilers," and how cheerily, and rather as a matter of compliment to their own astuteness, they assure you they "never go in for anything that *don't pay*," a suggestion of some necessity, or at least some possibility, of a higher motive existing in the pursuit of both literature and art, can hardly be superfluous, even if it be considered "idealistic." With thanks,

I beg to remain, Sir,
Faithfully yours,
OUIDA.

P.S.—Mr. Trollope, in his Harper grievances, always complained that the American publishing was miserable to an English author, because an American publisher, once having any of your works, always conceives that he has a sort of vested right in them all. "A. C. L." on the contrary, bemoans the fact that an American publisher cannot claim any right, legal or moral, though you wish him to be your exclusive printer and producer. Now there is one way, simple enough, to avoid either of these annoyances. Make your agreement with your English publisher so stringently that he cannot enter into arrangements with a Transatlantic house for your book for his own benefit; and take care that you forward to the States your "early sheets" long enough before the appearance

of your London edition for them to appear simultaneously. By this means you will have little to fear from American piracy, and need only take care that your English copies do not get over there in a cheaper form, to damage your United States sale. Of course, this rule will not serve with magazine serials, unless brought out also in American periodicals.

CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—I am really quite ashamed to take up your time and to be obliged to beg a place in your valuable paper for anything which can, in the least degree, have the appearance of a personal character. The last number of the *Reader* contains an extraordinary letter from Dr. Chapman, in which he intentionally makes two false quotations from my little book on Cholera, quotations which he is pleased to characterize as "amazing fictions." I should have passed over such an epithet with a smile, but I cannot allow these really "amazing fictions"—the creation of his own inventive faculties—to be saddled on me. Dr. Chapman makes me say, "no surface will secrete," and that the breath of cholera patients is "sensibly four or five degrees below that of the surrounding atmosphere at all ordinary temperatures." It is marvellous to find such daring misrepresentations of a book which Dr. Chapman professes to have read. At page 8 he will find the following words:—"All the secretions are entirely suspended;" the same expression is repeated several times, in nearly the same words, in different parts of my essay. Such an expression as "no surface will secrete," never has been, and never could have been used by me. Dr. Chapman will kindly, then, acknowledge the authorship. At page 16, he will also find, "the expired air of cholera patients has the same chemical composition as that of the atmosphere, but it is four or five degrees below the surrounding temperature." Again, at page 91:—"The air expired by cholera patients . . . is at 4° or 5° below the temperature of a warm room," which has a totally different signification from that given by his obliging addition of "at all ordinary temperatures."

It is most flattering to me to find that the only way by which my modest little essay can be attacked is by false quotations. Now, Dr. Chapman will permit me to quote CORRECTLY a few lines which I find at the commencement of his letter to the editor of the *Reader*:—"One of the doctrines upon which my treatment of cholera is based is, that in all stages of this disease, before reaction sets in, the arteries throughout the body are in a state of spasmodic contraction, caused, proximately, by abnormally vehement stimulus from the sympathetic nervous centres." What authority has Dr. Chapman for stating that "the arteries throughout the body are in a state of spasmodic contraction, caused, proximately, by abnormally vehement stimulus from the sympathetic nervous centres?" Such a vague assertion has no scientific meaning whatever, and consequently any theory constructed on such a basis can be nothing more than an "amazing fiction."

I regret to say that Dr. Chapman's treatment of cholera patients, although carefully applied by himself in the hospitals of Paris, proved a signal failure, leaving no other trace than that of regret that so much labour and so much talent should have been exhausted in the vain endeavour to support a fallacious theory.—I am, Sir, yours, greatly obliged,

CHARLES SHRIMPTON, M.D.

Rue d'Anjou, St. Honoré 17, Paris,
November 27, 1866.

SCIENCE.

ORIGIN OF SPECIES.

On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life. By Charles Darwin, M.A., F.R.S., &c. Fourth Edition, with Additions and Corrections. 8vo, pp. xxi.—593. 14s. (Murray.)

THIS fourth edition of one of the most widely influential books of the century, is far from being a mere reprint. The additions and corrections are neither few nor unimportant. The author has tabulated most of them for the convenience of reference, so that the corroborations which the progress of science has brought to the theory of Natural Selection may be considered without trouble by every one who is at home in the last edition. Had Mr. Darwin but delayed the publication a little

longer, he would have avoided quoting the existence of the *Eozoon Canadense* as an argument in his favour. The labours of Professors King and Rowney are conclusive on the point. However, with his usual caution, Mr. Darwin has not built much on what was till very recently looked upon as an undoubted fact by many distinguished naturalists, in whose company it is no disgrace to err. On the contrary, he frankly admits that to some extent it makes the difficulty caused by the absence beneath the Silurian formations of piles of strata rich in fossils greater than ever. Had the *Eozoon*, as Dr. Dawson thought, existed in countless numbers, it must have preyed on other minute organic beings, which must have been still more numerous. To support such a pyramid of animal life, plants must have existed, but of these no trace has been found. "The case at present must remain inexplicable, and may be truly urged as a valid argument against the view here entertained." Pre-Silurian life is, therefore, still a question. Amongst the recent observations which help Mr. Darwin's theory, those by De Candolle on the variability of the oak-genus are not the least interesting:—

He first gives in detail all the many points of structure which vary in the species, and estimates numerically the relative frequency of the variations. He specifies above a dozen characters which may be found varying even on the same branch, sometimes according to age or development, sometimes without any assignable reason. Such characters of course are not of specific value, but they are, as Asa Gray has remarked in commenting on this memoir, such as generally enter into specific definitions. De Candolle then goes on to say that he gives the rank of species to the forms that differ by characters never varying on the same tree, and never found connected by intermediate states. After this discussion, the result of so much labour, he emphatically remarks:—"They are mistaken, who repeat that the greater part of our species are clearly limited, and that the doubtful species are in a feeble minority. This seemed to be true, so long as a genus was imperfectly known, and its species were founded upon a few specimens, that is to say, were provisional. Just as we come to know them better, intermediate forms flow in, and doubts as to specific limits augment." He also adds that it is the best known species which present the greatest number of spontaneous varieties and sub-varieties. Thus *Quercus robur* has twenty-eight varieties, all of which, excepting six, are clustered round three sub-species, namely, *Q. pedunculata*, *sessiliflora*, and *pubescens*. The forms which connect these three sub-species are comparatively rare; and, as Asa Gray remarks, if these connecting forms, which are now rare, were to become extinct, the three sub-species would hold exactly the same relation to each other, as do the four or five provisionally-admitted species which closely surround the typical *Quercus robur*. Finally, De Candolle admits that out of the 300 species, which will be enumerated in his *Prodromus* as belonging to the oak family, at least two-thirds are provisional species, that is, are not known strictly to fulfil the definition above given of a true species.

Perhaps no idea has been so much laughed at as the one that a mere sensitiveness to light produced the eye, instead of the eye being made to see. But is the notion so singular and unexamined after all?

To suppose that the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree. When it was first said that the sun stood still and the world turned round, the common sense of mankind declared the doctrine false; but the old saying of *vox populi, vox Dei*, as every philosopher knows, cannot be trusted in science. Reason tells me, that if numerous gradations from a perfect and complex eye to one imperfect and simple, each grade being useful to its possessor, can be shown to exist; if further, the eye does vary ever so slightly, and the variations be inherited, which is certainly the case; and if any variation or modification in the organ be ever useful to an animal under changing conditions of life, then the difficulty of believing that a perfect and complex eye could have been formed by natural selection, though insuperable by our imagination, can hardly be considered real. How a nerve comes to be sensitive to light, hardly concerns us more than how life itself first originated; but I

may remark that, as some of the lowest organisms, in which nerves cannot be detected, are known to be sensitive to light, it does not seem impossible that certain elements in their tissues or sarcode should have become aggregated and developed into nerves endowed with special sensibility to its action.

Here, also, is a fresh passage, which touches upon the highest problems of creation:—

With respect to the view that organic beings have been created beautiful for the delight of man, —a view which it has lately been pronounced may safely be accepted as true, and as subversive of my whole theory,—I may first remark that the idea of the beauty of any particular object obviously depends on the mind of man, irrespective of any real quality in the admired object; and that the idea is not an innate and unalterable element in the mind. We see this in men of different races admiring an entirely different standard of beauty in their women; neither the Negro nor the Chinese admires the Caucasian bean-ideal. The idea also of beauty in natural scenery has arisen only within modern times. On the view of beautiful objects having been created for man's gratification, it ought to be shown that there was less beauty on the face of the earth before man appeared than since he came on the stage. Were the beautiful volute and cone shells of the Eocene epoch, and the gracefully-sculptured ammonites of the Secondary period, created that man might ages afterwards admire them in his cabinet? Few objects are more beautiful than the minute siliceous cases of the diatomaceæ: were these created that they might be examined and admired under the higher powers of the microscope? The beauty in this latter case, and in many others, is apparently wholly due to symmetry of growth. Flowers rank amongst the most beautiful productions of nature; and they have become through natural selection beautiful, or rather conspicuous in contrast with the greenness of the leaves, that they might be easily observed and visited by insects, so that their fertilisation might be favoured. I have come to this conclusion from finding it an invariable rule that when a flower is fertilised by the wind it never has a gaily-coloured corolla. Again, several plants habitually produce two kinds of flowers; one kind opened and coloured so as to attract insects; the other closed and not coloured, destitute of nectar, and never visited by insects. We may safely conclude that, if insects had never existed on the face of the earth, the vegetation would not have been decked with beautiful flowers, but would have produced only such poor flowers as are now borne by our firs, oaks, nut, and ash trees, by the grasses, by spinach, docks, and nettles.

One of the most popular tales of natural history, which has afforded a text for moralists of every age, is rudely assailed at page 271:—"I hear from Professor Wyman, who has made numerous careful measurements, that the accuracy of the workmanship of the bee has been greatly exaggerated; so much so, that, as he adds, whatever the typical form of the cell may be, it is rarely, if ever, realised." Of course, much of the new matter has been adopted from scientific papers already in print; but it has been carefully digested, and worked up with the original composition in such a form that no one would detect the juncture. The experiments of Sir John Lubbock on *Chlœon dimidiatum*, reports of which have at various times appeared in *THE READER*, are commented upon at great length; in fact, they have compelled the whole chapter on "Embryology and Development" to be entirely re-written. "Fritz Müller, who has recently discussed this whole subject with much ability, goes so far as to believe that the progenitor of all insects probably resembled an adult insect, and that the caterpillar or maggot, and cocoon or pupal stages, have subsequently been acquired; but from this view many naturalists—for instance, Sir J. Lubbock, who has likewise recently discussed this subject—would, it is probable, dissent." But Mr. Darwin's ideas as to the probable nature of our own common ancestor, derive fresh strength from the conjectures of Müller on another point. "It is probable, from what we know of the embryos of mammals, birds, fishes, and reptiles, that all the members in these four great classes are the modified descendants of some one ancient progenitor, which was furnished in its adult state with branchiæ, had a swim-bladder, four simple limbs, and a long tail fitted for an aquatic

life." A picture, or, at all events, an outline, of this imaginary animal, would be very attractive.

It is to be understood that we have only touched on a few of the additions to the Darwinian arguments. The remarks on the Australian cuckoo, and the various discoveries of Mr. Wallace, we omit with reluctance. Such a work as this will never be complete in the sense of being perfect. No one is better aware of this than Mr. Darwin himself. He has altered none of the passages which describe it as an "Abstract," and we gather that much is only a selection from the rich stores he is accumulating by way of proof and exposition. Let us hope they will themselves be given to the public before long, and by no inferior hand.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Memoirs Read before the Anthropological Society of London: 1865-6. Volume II. (Trübner and Co.)

THE recent publication of the Second Volume of the Anthropological Society's Memoirs will be hailed with satisfaction by all who had not the opportunity of hearing these papers read and discussed at the ordinary meetings, or at the last Congress of the British Association. We cannot but congratulate the Society on the position which it now deservedly occupies, and from which it had been so long unjustly debarred. But no more of this. The volume before us tasks all our powers. Thirty Papers contain, as may be imagined, a very large amount of information, and for our convenience we will arrange them under the several heads of General, Descriptive, Archaic, and Historical Anthropology—a classification for which we are indebted to the President. We cannot pretend to give in this article anything like an analysis of the Memoirs, and must be content to direct attention to those most worthy of notice. The last in the series, by Dr. Mitchell, on "*Blood Relationship in Marriage*," is decidedly not the least in importance. The author has applied himself to the question in a cautious, candid, philosophical spirit, untrammelled by any bias that would render his facts or his deductions less trustworthy; therefore he leaves us the more open to conviction. His enquiries are confined to Scotland, where his duties as a Deputy-Commissioner of Lunacy have induced him to investigate the influences of consanguinity, more especially in reference to the production of insanity and cerebral disease; but his observations extend to the existence of deaf-mutism, consumption, scrofula, and other morbid conditions, as the possible results of the same pathogenetic cause. Some of the cases appear to be striking proofs of the evil effects of intermarriage between blood-relations; but a wider field of enquiry has convinced him that these were exceptional cases, and that effects equally deplorable may be found to proceed from unions which have no kinship at all about them. Still it would appear that although the direct issue of an allied union may be healthy, the evil effects may show themselves in the third or fourth generation. It must be a nice and difficult point to determine, whether a particular disease be the result of hereditary transmission, or whether it has originated in the union of blood. There can, however, be no doubt that if consanguinity does not of itself produce disease in the offspring, it strengthens and intensifies those morbid proclivities in the parents' constitutions which tend to the production of disease in their children. Therefore the risk should be avoided. The conclusions arrived at by the author he formulates thus:—

1. That consanguinity in parentage tends to injure the offspring. That this injury assumes various forms: "as diminished viability; feeble constitution; bodily defects; impairment of the senses; disturbance of the nervous system; sterility."

2. That the injury may shew itself in the grandchildren: "so that there may be given to the offspring by the kinship of the parents a potential defect which may become actual in their

children, and thenceforth perhaps appear as an hereditary disease."

3. That idiocy and imbecility are more common than insanity in such cases.

The Papers that may be classed under the head of "Descriptive Anthropology" occupy a large portion of the volume. "*The Derivatives of the East*;" "*The Gallinas of Sierra Leone*;" "*The Inhabitants of Spain*;" "*The English People*;" and "*The Population of the New World*," are here in friendly union. Of these, the Paper by Mr. Bollaert, entitled "*Contributions to an Introduction to the Anthropology of the New World*," is a continuation of the subject by the same author in the former volume of *Memoirs*; and, together with another paper in this volume on "*The Maya Hieroglyphic Alphabet of Yucatan*," gives a connected account of one great division of the human race. Mr. Bollaert avows himself a polygenist: his personal researches in America, and his intimate knowledge of the peculiarities of the Red Man, whose footprints on the sands of Time are so unlike any with which we are acquainted in the Old World, have forced on our Author the conviction that the inhabitants of the two worlds could not have had a common origin. This hypothesis will probably remain an open question; but there can be no disputing the fact, that in Central America and elsewhere there exist the most wonderful remains of an ancient people, whose origin is shrouded in darkness. Whence they came, and how they developed their extraordinary civilization, art, religion, and science, is to the present totally unknown; but still we have a faint hope that the Maya Alphabet, which is a new and important addition to Mexican discovery, may be found to throw some light on the mysterious inscriptions of Yucatan. A Spanish Franciscan monk, Diego de Landa, who went to Yucatan, and died Bishop of Merida in 1579, has the merit of handing down to us this precious fragment, which is preserved in the Royal Academy of Madrid. Although his ecclesiastical zeal led him to burn all the Maya MSS. he met with, for he called them the works of the Devil, some stray document may yet be found that escaped him. At all events, we are now in possession of a clue that bears the same relation to Mexican inscriptions and hieroglyphics, as the Rosetta Stone to the monuments of Egypt. In connection with this interesting subject, we have here a Paper by Dr. Seeman, "*On the Resemblance of Inscriptions found on Ancient British Rocks with those of Central America*." This Paper is illustrated by a plate. Two of the figures are quite identical with the concentric circles of Mr. Tate's book; in the other figures the resemblance is not so manifest. They are incised in a similar manner, and were found in a district of Veraguas, New Granada; "once densely peopled by a nation that buried their dead in stone cists, accompanied by their weapons, ornaments, potteries, and other household articles." Here is food for speculation in reference to the probability of an intercourse between the Old and New Worlds in a remote age. But analogy and identity are separated by a wide gulf. Dr. Gibb presents us with a Paper "*On Essential Points of Difference between the Larynx of the Negro and that of the White Man*." The author is well known for his researches in the anatomy and physiology of the larynx, and his examination of the Negro windpipe reveals the singular fact that certain small cartilages situated in the vocal cords, are found large and well developed in that race, but very minute or wholly absent in the white race; and that the same structures are found also in the *Quadrumanus* largely developed. The Negro larynx has also some other points of difference from that of the European. We have Papers "*On the Iconography of the Skull*," "*On the Orthographic Projection of the Skull*," and another on the "*Description of a New Goniometer*," by Dr. Broca, of Paris. Practical anthropologists would do well to study these Papers, for it is of the last importance to give exact and faithful delineations of the skull, subordinate to only accurate admeasurement, in con-

veying precise ideas of form and size, on which the determination and comparison of individuals and racial characters depend. In connection with this subject we notice the paper of Mr. Carter Blake "*On Certain Simious Skulls, with especial reference to a Skull from Louth, in Ireland*," illustrated by a plate; and that by Dr. Beddoe "*On the Headforms of the West of England*," which, with another Paper by the same author, "*On the Testimony of Local Phenomena in the West of England to the permanence of Anthropological Types*," may be studied with great advantage, and we regret we cannot find space for a fuller notice of them. Two or three more Papers in relation to Anatomy and Physiology we must also pass over, to notice those which fall within the province of Archaic Anthropology. Mr. Petrie contributes "*A Notice of Brocks and Picts Houses of Orkney*;" "*A Report on the Ancient Remains of Caithness*," by Mr. Anderson; "*A Report on Explorations into the Archaic Anthropology of the Islands of Unst, Brassy, and the Mainland of Zetland*," by Dr. Hunt; and a third "*Report of the Zetland Anthropological Expedition*," by Mr. Tate, present us with a variety of reliable data concerning the pre-historic antiquities of that northern region. As regards Caithness, the cairns and burial-mounds which are found there in profusion, are clearly referable to the Bronze age, though flint and stone implements are more frequently discovered in them than those of bronze. Certain long cairns were ascertained, for the first time, to be chambered barrows, and of a peculiar type, differing from all other cairns in having "crescentic horns" or structures of stone of that form at their ends. One short cairn of similar type was excavated, which proved to be both interesting in its contents, and unique in its structure. It contained human and animal bones, burned and unburned, fragments of pottery, a hammer of gray granite, polished and perforated, flint arrow-heads, and a flint knife. The so-called Picts houses of Orkney are chambered cairns or barrows. Dr. Hunt's researches were rewarded by the discovery of a very large number of rude stone implements, which are in the Society's Museum. He examined some ancient graves in the Island of Brassy, in which the bodies seemed to have been deposited in wooden coffins, in a peat soil. The circumstance of finding merely a few traces of the body in one of these graves did not pass unobserved, and has given origin to a Paper by Dr. Hunt "*On the Influence of some kinds of Peat in Destroying the Human Body, &c.*" At the same time and place a stone was brought to light, with some Runic characters inscribed on its under side. The inscription has been submitted to the inspection of several eminent Runic scholars, but without any very satisfactory results. Dr. Barclay, of Glasgow, reads the mysterious symbol as "Teit or Tait," a name very common in Northern Sagas, and also found in inscriptions from Orkney. If so, we might be inclined to say that this Runic symbol was predictive of the incarnation of that gentleman to whom we are indebted for the discovery of the Northumbrian Rock symbols, and from whom we expect further revelations. Merlin himself must have had a hand in it! We don't expect Dr. Moore to coincide with us.

Historical Anthropology is represented by Dr. Bower's Paper "*On Ancient Slavery*." The author begins "ab ovo," from the curse on Canaan, and traces the consequence of that curse in relation to the political economy of the Jews. He then gives an account of "the peculiar institution" as it existed amongst the classic nations of antiquity. If slavery be not a Divine institution, it was, at any rate, sanctioned under the Jewish polity, and it has existed, in one form or another, from the earliest historical period until now; and if ever extinguished, it will be when the principles of humanity and justice are better understood and more generally acted on than at present, even by nations professing a high degree of civilization. With regard to the Negro, time alone will prove whether he be destined to exist as "a servant of servants,"

or to lose his "place in Nature," and perish through his own incapacity for rising to a higher position in the world. If his inferiority of race be, as the author thinks, penal, one or other of those alternatives must infallibly occur.

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—November 15.—General Sabine, President, in the chair.—Dr. Gladstone, Mr. Huggins, Mr. Lassell, Sir John Lubbock, and Colonel Smythe were elected auditors. John Charles Bucknill, Dr. William Augustus Guy, and Mr. John William Kaye were admitted fellows.—The following communications were read:—1. "On the Congelation of Animals," by John Davy, M.D., F.R.S.—2. "Letter to the President from Lieut.-Colonel Walker, R.E., F.R.S., Superintendent of the Trigonometrical Survey of India."—3. "Spectroscopic Observations of the Sun," by J. Norman Lockyer; communicated by Dr. Sharpey, Sec. R.S.—4. "On a Crystalline Fatty Acid from Human Urine," by E. Schunck, F.R.S.—5. "On Oxalurate of Ammonia as a Constituent of Human Urine," by the same.—6. "On the Structure of the Optic Lobes of the Cuttle-Fish," by J. Lockhart Clarke, F.R.S.

November 22.—General Sabine, President, in the chair.—1. "On the Laws of Connexion between the Conditions of a Chemical Change and its Amount." "On the Reaction of Hydric Peroxide and Hydric Iodide," by A. Vernon Harcourt, M.A., and W. Esson, M.A.—2. "On the Stability of Domes,"—Part II., by E. Wyndham Tarn, M.A.—3. "A Supplementary Memoir on Caustics," by A. Cayley, F.R.S.

GEOLOGICAL.—November 21.—Warrington W. Smyth, Esq., President, in the chair. The following communications were read:—1. "On marine fossiliferous deposits of Secondary Age in New South Wales." By the Rev. W. B. Clarke. In Australia, until the year 1860, the existence of deposits of Secondary age had not been demonstrated. Since the year 1860, Secondary fossils have been collected by several explorers, and the author gave a history of their discovery, with lists of the genera and of some of the species found in each locality. His own investigations of the country near the Maranoa River, in Queensland, and the examination of collections sent to him from localities between there and the Flinders River, have led him to the belief there exists in that area formations ranging from the Trias up to the Cretaceous. Mr. Clarke also stated that the deposits occurring on the eastern and western sides of Australia do not seem to be identical, fossils of the age of the Lias and Inferior Oolite having alone been obtained from the latter.—2. "On the Madreporaria of the Infra-lia of South Wales." By P. Martin Duncan. Dr. Duncan stated, that in preparing this communication he had been largely indebted to Mr. Charles Moore for the specimens examined, and for a large amount of information embodied in the descriptions of the deposits. He described the strata of Brocastle and Ewenney, giving lists of their fossils, and of the new species of *Madreporaria* described in this paper, and illustrated by lithographs prepared for the Palaeontographical Society; he stated his views of their geological position, their relations to, and differences from the zone of *Ammonites Bucklandi* and the strata in France and Luxembourg which have the same homotaxis, and gave a general view of the distribution of the *Madreporaria* from the Keuper to the zone of *Ammonites Bucklandi*. The chief conclusions were:—(1) that the fossiliferous beds of Sutton, Southerndown, Brocastle, and Ewenney are important members of the series which intervenes between the Trias and the beds containing *Ammonites Bucklandi*, *Griphæa incurva*, *Lima gigantea*, &c., and which has been named the Infra-lia; (2) that the Mollusca and certain well-known species of *Madreporaria*, which are grouped together at Brocastle, have similar relations to each other in the Calcaire de Valogne, in the zone of *Ammonites Moreanus* of the Cote d'Or, and in the Gres de Luxembourg; and (3) that the above-mentioned beds in Wales, constituting a coralliferous horizon, are the equivalents of the Upper beds of the French and Luxembourgian Infra-lia.—3. "On some points in the structure of the *Xiphosura*, having reference to their relationship with the *Eurypterida*." By H. Woodward, Esq. The author pointed out that Prof. McCoy's tribe, *Pacilopoda*, was intended to include the *Limuli*, with *Eurypterus*, *Pterygotus*, and *Belinurus*. Prof. Huxley had already shown (in 1859) that this

classification was founded upon an erroneous interpretation of the fossils, then (1849) only known in England by extremely fragmentary remains. Prof. McCoy's classification was based on conjecture rather than on a minute acquaintance with the anatomy of these extinct forms. The subsequent researches of Profs. Agassiz and Hall in America, Prof. Nieszkowski in Russia, and the independent investigations of Mr. J. W. Salter and the author in this country have shown that a close relationship actually does exist between the *Xiphosura* and the *Eurypterida*. The author then gave a detailed comparison of the structure of these two divisions, which he proposed to call sub-orders of Dr. Dana's order *Merostomata*. He pointed out that the *Xiphosura* were divisible into three genera:—1st, *Belinurus*, Baily, having 5 freely-articulated thoracic segments, and 3 anchylosed abdominal ones and a telson; 2nd, *Prestwichia*, a new genus, having the thoracic and abdominal segments anchylosed together; and 3rd, *Limulus*, Müller, having a head composed of 7 cephalic and 1 thoracic segments, followed by 5 coalesced thoracic somites bearing branchiæ, and 1 or more coalesced apodal abdominal somites, to which is articulated the telson. Although so great a dissimilarity exists between *Pterygotus* and *Limulus*, yet in the genera *Hemiaspis*, *Exapinurus*, and *Pseudoniscus*, we have forms which, in the number of body-rings, are intermediate.

CHEMICAL, November 15.—Dr. W. A. Miller, President, in the chair.—The Fellows elected were Messrs. W. H. Gossage, Robert Biggs, and David Page. Dr. Daubeny read a paper "On Ozone," which embodied the results of an extensive series of experiments and meteorological observations made at Torquay and Oxford. The prevalence of a south-west wind in the first-named locality coincided with the indications of the greatest amount of Ozone, whilst at Oxford the variations were less pronounced, and in the summer months the easterly winds were found to be more highly charged. The author stated that growing plants purified the air, not only by the restitution of oxygen, but by the generation of ozone. The subjects were discussed by Professors Frankland, Williamson, Gilbert, and Odling. Mr. W. N. Hartley read a short notice of a new sulphur derivative, to which he gave the name of "Chlor-Sulphoform." The next paper was by Messrs. Chapman and Thorp, in continuation of that read at the previous meeting of the Society, and entitled, "The Relation between the Production of Gradual Oxidation and the Molecular Constitution of the Bodies Oxidised." Mr. Chapman read a paper "On the Synthesis of Butylene."

MATHEMATICAL, November 22.—Professor Sylvester, President, in the chair.—Richard Wormell, Esq., was elected a member of the Society. A vote of thanks to Professor de Morgan, for his services as President during the first two years of the existence of the Society, was passed. It was also resolved that the thanks of the Society be tendered to the President and Council of the Chemical Society for the use of their rooms at Burlington House.—The papers read were:—"On Harmonies in Space," by Mr. W. R. Clifford; and "Analogues in Space to the Theorem of Moments," by Mr. J. J. Walker.—Professor Sylvester communicated a new theorem by which any integer power of a logarithm may be developed, and gave some consequences of this theorem.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—November 28.—Sir Roderick Murchison, president, in the chair.—Twenty-five new fellows were elected. Previous to the paper of the evening a letter from Dr. Livingstone was read by the secretary, dated from Ngomano, Rovuma River, 18th of May. The traveller had penetrated 30 miles further than his furthest point in 1861, and was preparing for his advance to the unknown northern extremity of Lake Nyassa. On the arrival of his party at the mouth of the Rovuma, it was found impossible to discover a path for the camels through the mangrove swamps. The vessel consequently proceeded 25 miles further to the north, and a good harbour and starting-point were then found in Mikindany Bay. From this place they marched overland to the S.W., and on arriving on the banks of the Rovuma, followed its course to the junction of the Loendi. The Chief of Ngomano, at the junction, proved most friendly, and the Doctor intended to make this his head-quarters until he had felt his way round Lake Nyassa. The Rovuma is flanked on both sides by a chain of hills from 400 to 600 feet high, covered with dense entangled jungle. The natives, the Makonde tribe, were

found to be willing workers, and aided in clearing a path for the men and animals. Traces of coal were found on the banks of the river.—A paper was then read by Dr. R. J. Mann, "On the Physical Geography of Natal." The author exhibited numerous diagrams and maps in illustration of his subject, which was to show how the peculiar climate and fertility of Natal depended upon its physical configuration. The result of this peculiar climate, dependent on the geographical position and configuration of the land, is that sugar, coffee, arrowroot, pine-apples, bananas, and oranges can be grown on the coast, while wheat, potatoes, and other good crops, cattle, horses, and sheep thrive on the uplands, the whole colony being only equal in area to one-third of England. The author explained the physical causes of the formation of the harbour of Natal, and gave many details of the mineral and vegetable productions of the country. In answer to questions from Mr. J. Crawford, Dr. Mann explained that Natal could never become a wine-growing country, owing to the cloudiness and moisture of the summer, which prevented the proper development of the grapes. The harbour of Natal, the only one on the coast, would admit vessels of 700 tons burden, and its improvement, to the extent of enabling it to admit vessels of any tonnage, was only a question of outlay. Captain Toynbee suggested that the tropical climate of the Natal coast lands might be attributable to the warm oceanic current from the north-east, which sweeps past the shores of the colony. The temperature of the water in this current off Natal (as he himself had observed) was 78 deg.; whereas, in the same latitude on the western coast of Africa, where a cold current ran from the Southern Ocean, the temperature of the sea was only 50 deg.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, November 20.—Dr. Hunt, President, in the Chair.—The following new members were elected:—Richard Arnold, Esq., M.D.; David Belloch, Esq.; Rev. D. Bowyer; George Calvert, Esq.; John Collinson, Esq.; H. Augustus Cooper, Esq.; Frederick Whitlock Darby, Esq.; Rev. D. J. Drakeford, M.A.; Fredrick Duckworth, Esq., M.D.; W. N. Duggan, Esq., M.D.; R. W. Fairbank, Esq.; James Fischer, Esq.; Robert Fischer, Esq.; J. Gaus, Esq.; William Gibson, jun., Esq.; William Goddard, Esq.; Samuel Guppy, Esq.; John Baker Hopkins, Esq.; Henry W. Howorth, Esq.; Henry Jackson, Esq., M.A.; Alfred Lionel Lewis, Esq.; J. K. Lord, Esq., F.Z.S.; Robert Menzies, Esq.; P. S. Montosaung Modeliar, Esq.; William Henry Morgan, Esq., M.R.C.L.; Charles Benjamin Moses, Esq.; Thomas Nicholas, Esq., M.A.; R. W. Payne, Esq.; Barnett Phillips, Esq.; William Benjamin Leggatt, Esq., C.E.; Thomas Pritchard, jun., Esq.; Dr. Henry Purdon; G. M. Gypotee Rao, Esq.; Samuel Rule, Esq., M.D.; W. H. Scattergood, Esq.; Fredrick George Shaw, Esq.; William Theobald, jun., Esq.; Cornelius Walford, Esq., F.S.S.; Edward Wood, Esq., F.G.S.; Andrew Wyley, Esq.; Stephen Yeldham, Esq., M.D.; Augustus Haserich, Esq.; E. Lund, Esq., M.D.; J. Plant, Esq., F.G.S. Corresponding Members—M. L'Abbé Brasseur de Bourbourg; Professor Daa; M. Dumon; M. de Khanikof; Professor Rhyg. Local Secretaries—Signor Giglioli, for Japan; Dr. Koreu, for Beigen, Norway; Dr. Le Bret, for Barèges, Pyrenees; S. Mosling, for Throndyneur, Norway; S. W. North, Esq., for York; W. H. Sherwood, Esq., for Bathurst, Gambia; William Shipp, Esq., for Blandford, Dorset; William Theobald, jun., Esq., for Rangoon; M. A. de Zettner, for New Granada; W. Winwood Reade, Esq., for New York; Dr. S. Stratford, for Auckland.

The following papers were read:—1. Report on Anthropological papers read at the Nottingham meeting of the British Association, by C. Carter Blake. The author described in detail the proceedings which took place in the newly-created department of Anthropology, and commented on the character of the Anthropological papers read. He congratulated the Society on their great number, and urged the necessity of systematic and united action at the Dundee meeting.—2. Report on the formation of an Anthropological Society at Manchester, by the Rev. Dunbar I. Heath. Mr. Heath gave an account of the circumstances under which the new Society had been founded, and of the proceedings at the Soirée held last month.—3. Report on the recent investigations of Dr. Edmund Dupont on the Bone Caves on the banks of the Lesse River, Belgium, by C. Carter Blake. Mr. Blake, after giving a minute account of the circumstances which led to the investigation of these caves by the Anthropological Society in conjunction with Mr. Dupont, entered into considerable details respecting the number and character of these caves; the various

levels and palæontological horizons at which they were found; the characteristic fossils of each; the nature of the human remains; and the geological conditions under which the successive deposits of rolled pebbles, stratified lehm, angular pebbles, and loess were found. He gave a long account of the jaw found in the Trou de la Naulette, accompanied by measurements of many other jaws, and summed up an exceedingly long paper (which will appear in the Memoirs of the Society) by the following conclusions:—(1.) That the deposits of stratified "lehm" under stalagmite, in the Trou de la Naulette, was due to the action of slowly-operating causes. (2.) That the individual whose jaw was found therein was contemporary with the elephant and rhinoceros, whose remains are embedded under like conditions. (3.) That some of the characters afforded by the jaw indicates a resemblance to the jaws of the Slavonic peoples of Eastern Europe, as especially exemplified by the Masures and Wends. (4.) That the above character affords a distinction between the remains found in the Trou de la Naulette, and those found in the Trou de Frontal, which latter contained during the reindeer period individuals strongly resembling the Calmucks of the present day. (5.) That some of the characters of the jaw from the Trou de la Naulette indicate a strong resemblance to, and exaggeration of, the characters afforded by the melanous races of men, and especially the Australian.

In the discussion on the above paper, Mr. J. Jones regretted that Mr. Blake had exercised so much reticence, and refrained from publishing all the facts communicated to him by Dr. Dupont.—Mr. R. Tate disapproved of Mr. Prestwich's classification of the gravel of France and England.—Dr. F. C. Webb agreed with Mr. Blake in the minute description which he had given of the jaw from La Naulette. He thought that the French classification, which ascribed five functional roots to the third molar, inferior to the English one, by which the same structure was described as being triracinate.—The Rev. Dunbar I. Heath commented on the early Slavonic peoples, and their possible relation with the inhabitants of Western Europe.—Mr. Blake briefly replied.

ACTUARIES, November 26.—Charles Jellicoe, Esq., President, in the chair.—William Braid, Esq., Alexander G. Brown, Esq., Henry F. W. Cowley, Esq., and Frederick J. Hallows, Esq., were elected Associates. T. B. Sprague, Esq., M.A., read a paper "On the Value of Annuities payable Half-yearly and Quarterly," &c.

STATISTICAL, November 20.—Colonel W. H. Sykes, M.P., Vice-President, in the chair.—Wm. George Larkins, Esq., was elected a Fellow of the Society.—Mr. Newmarch read a review of Professor Rogers's "History of Prices," and gave many valuable and important passages from the work.—Mr. Dudley Baxter then read a paper "On Railway Extension and its Results." The origin and development of railways in England, and their spread in other countries, were treated by the writer in great detail. A novel feature in connection with railway economies was the proposed application of a certain portion of the annual revenue derived from the railways of the United Kingdom to the liquidation of the National Debt.

ANTIQUARIES, November 15.—The Earl Stanhope, President, in the chair.—A handsome present of books from Mr. King Eyton, and several other contributions to the library, were acknowledged.—The President read the correspondence which had passed between himself and the Foreign Office with respect to the Monastery of Monte Cassino. A vote in the Italian House of Representatives had finally settled that the monastery must be dissolved, but the Italian Government had expressed their intention of preserving the building and its contents as an artistic monument.—The President then read a paper by himself on the present state of the question of Cæsar's landing. When the first volume of the "History of Cæsar" was published, the Society had expressed their admiration of it by enrolling the Emperor Napoleon III. among their Royal Fellows. The second volume did not fall short of the first in ability or interest, but it strangely reopened a question which the Society thought they had themselves set at rest four years ago. The Emperor still places the point of Cæsar's landing at Walmer or Deal to the eastward, instead of at Hythe to the westward, and to support this view he interprets the words "*post diem quartum*" exclusively, instead of inclusively, making the day the landing took place the 25th instead of the 27th of August. Lord Stanhope accordingly placed himself in

communication with the Duke of Somerset, and promptly received a certificate from the Hydrographer to the Admiralty, that on the 25th of August, as well as the 27th, the current was running westward at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, but that it would only continue in that direction until four o'clock, instead of till half-past six, as on the 27th. This, however, is quite sufficient for the purpose, and therefore the landing must have been at Hythe, whichever day be the true one. The President then quoted some passages from Cæsar, Cicero, and Livy (collected by the Rev. H. Merivale in the *Contemporary Review* for September), to show that expressions like that in question should be understood inclusively, and instanced the familiar words "tertian" and "quartan ague"—"buit jours" and "quinze jours" in French—with the same object.—On the motion of Mr. Ouvry, thanks were voted to Lord Stanhope, and, on the suggestion of Mr. Durrant Cooper, it was agreed that the paper should be published at once in advance of the *Archæologia*.—Colonel Fielding exhibited a musketoon, of Scotch workmanship, said to have been presented by "Blueskin" to Sir J. Fielding, the magistrate.—Mr. Franks, Director, exhibited a copper spear-head—not smelted, but beaten out—from Lake Superior.—Mr. Wylie exhibited a remarkable bronze object found in Italy, and contributed a translation of a paper on the subject by Padre Gheruzzi, who considers it to be a votive offering at the shrine of Faunus Lupercus.—The Director remarked that there was a difficulty in accepting this interpretation, as similar objects had been found in Germany.—The President drew the attention of the members to an excellent work in two volumes by Padre Gheruzzi, on the Inscriptions and Caricatures found in Pompeii.

November 22.—Octavius Morgan, Esq., M.P., in the Chair.—Mr. J. B. Stanhope exhibited an inscription from a stone, the other side of which bore a sculpture of later date, about the fifteenth century.—Mr. E. Peacock exhibited an inscription from a stone recently removed from the wall of a cottage at Sumthorpe, in Lincolnshire, and appearing to date from the sixteenth century. No satisfactory rendering was given of either of these inscriptions.—Mr. Clements R. Markham contributed a translation of a paper by Don Juan Albacete on the discovery of a capital of Byzantine Architecture at Lesuza, in Spain.—Mr. E. Peacock contributed a collection of Churchwarden's Accounts for the parish of Leverton, in the county of Lincoln, the earliest entry in which was dated 1492.—Mr. Wylie contributed a translation of a paper by the Abbé Cochet, on the recent discovery in the Rouen Cathedral of a statue of Henry, eldest son of Henry II. of England, and other remains.—Mr. J. Wyatt, Local Secretary for Bedfordshire, contributed a paper on Roman remains found at Sandy, in that county.

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL.—Manchester, November 13.—Edward Schunch, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.—Mr. Arthur McDougall, William Stanley Jevons, M.A., Professor of Logic, &c., Owens College; and William Jack, M.A., Professor of Natural Philosophy, Owens College, were elected Members of the Society.—"On Echinus Lividus, illustrated by specimens from Roundstone," by Thomas Alcock, M.D. The author described particularly the mechanism of the teeth and jaws of the animal, and showed by a dissection of the parts that the statement made both by Professor Owen and Professor Rymer Jones that the striated surfaces of the jaws are used to comminute the food is incorrect, for the whole of these surfaces is occupied by muscle, and is altogether outside the pharynx through which the food passes.

CAMBRIDGE PHILOSOPHICAL, November 26.—"On the Comparatively Late Date and Composite Character of the Iliad and Odyssey," by Mr. F. A. Paley. The author maintained that in all probability these poems were a composition by one person, who had written them, incorporating into his work the fragments of older poems, not very long before the time of Plato. His very elaborate arguments may be grouped above the following heads:—(1.) The absence of direct reference to the Homeric poems in writers anterior to the age of Plato. (2.) Evidence derived from the remains of Greek art, especially the vases; the style of dress, armour, &c., closely resembling that which prevailed in the 5th century, B.C. (3.) Plato and Aristotle are the first authors who quote or appeal to them largely. (4.) The fact that, though there is a considerable mixture of archaisms, the dialect is generally modern. (5.) This bears a strong general resemblance to the dialect of Herodotus, and there are apparent allusions to his writings.

(6.) References which exist in Greek writers to earlier epics, which are commonly called the cyclic poems, and have generally passed for later in date, though really earlier. (7.) The artificial nature of the poems denotes a late date. (8.) They cover so small a portion of the "Homeric" story. (9.) The laws of organic change in language make it incredible that word-forms should have been so long retained with such slight modifications when writing was not invented.—The Public Orator (Mr. W. G. Clark, *Trinity*) made some remarks in reply, professing himself still unconvinced, and relying upon Plato's mention of Hipparchus having brought the Homeric poems to Attica; on the internal evidence of the two poems, which he had studied on the spot, pointing to different authors, perhaps to different ages; and on the early existence of writing in the neighbouring country of Egypt. He also discussed some of the other objections, to which Mr. Paley briefly rejoined.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB.—November 23.—Ernest Hart, Esq., President, in the Chair.—Mr. M. C. Cooke read a short paper on the best method of transmitting slides through the post.—Mr. S. J. McIntire read a paper on the different kinds of *Produra*, in which he described their history and habits, how to mount their scales, and his experiences in breeding them for microscopical investigation. Mr. N. E. Green read a paper on *Melicerta*, being the result of long and careful enquiry into their habits and structure, under high powers and in thin glass cells especially contrived for the purpose. Nineteen members were elected.

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 2.—General Monthly Meeting.

TUESDAY.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL, 8.—1. "On the Anthropoid and Mute Origin of European Races." 2. "On Race in Christianity, by The Rev. Dunbar I. Heath.

ANGLO-BIBLICAL INSTITUTE, 7.—"On Dr. Mandelstamm's Introduction to the Bible," by Rev. A. Leury.

ETHNOLOGICAL.—1. "On the Ethnological Results of the Arabian Conquest of Spain," by Mr. Crawford. 2. "Remarks on some of the Bearings of Archaeology upon certain Ethnological Problems and Researches," by R. Dunn.

WEDNESDAY.

ARTS, 8.—"On the Trade in Foreign Cattle," by Mr. John Irwin.

GEOLOGICAL, 8.—1. "Geological Description of the First Cataract, Upper Egypt," by Mr. J. C. Hawkshaw. 2. "On some Echinodermata from the Cretaceous Rocks of Sinai," by Dr. P. Martin Duncan. 3. "On the Drift of the North of England," by Mr. J. Curry.

THURSDAY.

ROYAL, 8.30.

LINNEAN, Burlington House, 8.—1. Dr. Cobbold "On *Distonia clavatum* from a Sword-fish." 2. Dr. Masters, "On the Morphology of the Malvaceæ and allied orders." 3. Sir John Lubbock, "On *Pauropus*, a new type of Centipedes."

CHEMICAL, 8.—"Synthesis of Formic Acid," by E. T. Chapman. "Alloys of Magnesium," by Mr. James Parkinson.

ART.

MR. MADOX BROWN'S "CORDELIA."

It is trite to say that the amount of thought in any work of art is the measure of its excellence; but we are so frequently called upon to contemplate showy inanities in literature, painting, and sculpture, that it becomes incumbent on every one pretending, in however limited a way, to influence the public taste to reiterate the saying again and again. When, on the other hand, a true work of genius comes under notice, we are bound to receive it with emphatic deference, and, while approaching it curiously, to do so also reverently.

Such a work we consider "Cordelia's Portion;" and if Madox Brown had done nothing else, this alone would stamp him an original artist.

The drawing is some three feet by two, and contains in all about a dozen full-length figures. In the centre sits Lear, glooming at his youngest daughter, Cordelia, as he pronounces, with a grand, grim intensity of meaning, the words—"Thy truth, then, be thy dower." By her side stands France, ready to accept the "dowerless daughter," and, with upturned face, seems in the act of thanking the gods for "his unpriz'd precious maid." The attitude of the lovers towards each other is that of confiding loyalty, and the faces of both breathe a beauty almost devotional. "The Duke of wat'rish Burgundy," not an unknightly figure, stands behind them, and with wistful look towards her whom he has rejected, appears already to be communing with himself remorsefully on the rashness of his decision, and to feel that he has lost a jewel of great price. Such are the figures on the left of the

King. Immediately in front of him lie on the ground the map of his dominions, and at his feet a couple of tawny hounds. A small table, on which are placed the insignia of royalty, helps, with other things, to carry the eye to the group on the right. Goneril and Regan—the former a portly, red-haired, imperious dame, and the latter a stately sibyl, whose face looks out from beneath raven locks with a terrible remorselessness—stand near the old man, while their husbands kneel, and each with his wife lays a hand upon the crown which in future they are to share. Behind the King's chair stand the usual guards and some other attendants, and forth through the door, on the extreme right, the too honest and outspoken Kent walks into banishment. All these figures are admirably delineated, and as admirably grouped, and the unity of the whole triumphantly preserved. The composition owes this partly to the arrangement, partly to the bold balance and interchange of colour, with the bright yellow on the back of the King's throne for the key note, and above all to the grand figure of the white-robed King himself. His head droops as with age, and the cloud of his great white beard covers his breast; but it is the whirlwind of his passion which imparts that withered and half-palsied look, and beneath his beetling eyebrows we discover a vitality of awful intensity. This figure, indeed, is a noble creation, and would make or clench the fame of any man.

The costumes and appointments generally belong to the mediæval Romanesque period, if we may be permitted the phrase, with an occasional reference to the early classic. And here, too, the artist has shown his cunning by the appropriateness of his selection and combination.

Were one to be hypercritical, he might object to the placing of Kent so far back in the distance, thereby detracting from his importance, and to the apparent crowding behind the King's chair. Both these things have no doubt been well considered by the artist, and yet we cannot help thinking that he falls into the error of telling us too much. The composition would have lost none of its grandeur had there been fewer details; but, as we have said, captiousness is not the spirit in which works of real thought are to be received, and we would have nothing for the author of "Cordelia's Portion" but congratulations.

MR. ALEXANDER MUNRO has been selected to make a portrait bust of Dr. Quain, which is to be presented to the eminent surgeon by his pupils. The sculptor is at present busily engaged on his colossal statue of James Watt, which will be erected in the town of Birmingham. It is earnestly to be hoped that the health of the gifted sculptor will continue to improve. Our readers will remember that the "Naiad" commissioned by the late Marquis of Lansdowne, the well-known patron of art, which has been erected in Berkeley Square, is by the same artist. It is by far the most successful of our public fountains. The figure, which is considerably larger than life, is remarkable for the easy freedom of its pose and the graceful sweep of its line. The face is at once sweet and piquant, and the whole modelling highly satisfying. The drapery of the lower limbs is one of the finest studies of the kind we can remember in modern sculpture.

THE Exhibition of the Old Water Colour Society, which was opened on Monday, has been tolerably thronged during the week, and is regarded as a success. We intend in our next impression glancing at its contents, and pointing out whatever commends itself to our notice.

MISCELLANEA.

The New York papers report the discovery of almost the entire skeleton of an enormous mastodon in a peat bed near Troy. The jaw-bone was dug up some weeks ago; but on November 8th, eighty-five feet below the earth's surface, and about fifty feet below the place of the original discovery, the workmen came upon the remaining bones, viz., two tusks, back-bone, the upper jaw and cranium, a number of the ribs, the hip-bones, shoulder-blades, and the bones of the hind legs. The tusks were each nearly six feet long and about nine inches in diameter. One of them, upon exposure to the light, crumbled to pieces like clay, resembling that substance in appearance and texture. The ribs, of which there were 14 found, are about 4 feet long, the largest being 4 feet 9 inches. The upper jaw-bone is 4 feet 9 inches long from the extremity of the mouth to the cranium, and across the forehead measures about 3 feet. So heavy is it that it was with difficulty 4 labourers could move the mass. The sockets in which originally were located the eyes of the monster are almost large enough to

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admit the head of a man. The hip-bone is 5 feet long, and weighs 100 pounds; the shoulder-blades measure 2 feet 9 inches, and weigh about 50 pounds each. The bone of the leg at the knee-joint measures 13 inches in diameter. The vertebrae of the back-bone are 8 inches in diameter. The other fragments found are in harmonious proportion to those already mentioned. Professor Marsh, of Yale College, was present soon after the discovery was made, and pronounced it the most remarkable scientific event of the age. The structure will now be united in its several parts by means of wire, and thus a very accurate idea can be formed of the size and weight of the monster to which it belonged. After a separation of countless ages, probably, the several parts will be united.

MESSRS. SMITH & ELDER have published a library edition of "Philip," the last complete work of Thackeray.

AT ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, R. G. Marrack, B.A., 1865 (14th Wrangler), has been elected a Law Student, on the foundation of the late Mr. Macmahon.

THE provident spirit of the community does not appear to fall short of the increase in its material prosperity. This is evidenced by nothing more strongly than by the steady and growing progress of the great Assurance Institutions. Those who are familiar with the history of these undertakings will recollect how some ten years ago it was considered an indication of exceptional prosperity if the premiums of an office on New Assurances amounted to over £5,000 a year. Even at a later period, five years ago, those who claim to be authorities on the subject, looked upon a new business producing £10,000 a year as a maximum point. We recollect an expression to this effect in the *Post Magazine*, a journal which has always occupied a high position among Insurance papers. Having these facts in mind, it is difficult to overrate the importance of the figures presented in the reports of some of the leading offices recently published. We have at various times taken occasion to mention those which have reached us, but that of the Albert Life Assurance Company now before us appears to exceed them all in this indication of material prosperity. The New Premium Income of the past year in this Company exceeded £35,000, whilst, with a total income of just over £300,000, excluding interest and casual receipts, the amount paid in claims was under £180,000. We find, too, by their report that this large new income (to the extent of £35,641 10s. 6d.) is not the result of a heedless acceptance of every life proposed for assurance, as it appears that of 2,359 submitted for assuring a total of £1,097,140 12s., only 1,795, assuring £781,034, 12s. were accepted and completed—a little over two-thirds of those proposed.

THE private bills to be brought before Parliament in the ensuing session are not likely to include nearly as many as former years for Metropolitan railway extensions, involving the wholesale demolition of house property and the disturbance and stoppage of streets and thoroughfares. The railway system of the Metropolis may now, it is to be hoped, or when authorized lines in progress have been constructed, be considered complete, and that none but very short extensions will be heard of for a good many years to come. Whether this turn out to be the case or not with respect to ordinary railways, it may be expected that a scheme of conveyance, intended to abate the perils of the streets, will, in the coming Session, engage the attention of the Legislature, and we should almost hope receive its sanction—we refer to the introduction of street railways. It is true that these have been already tried in London and failed; but the failure of Mr. Train's system arose mainly from the objectionable form of the rail laid down, which broke the level of the street, caused serious injury to the pavement on the sides of the rail, and was incompatible with the ordinary street traffic. The promoters of a revival of the street tramway system in London propose to obviate the objections to Train's system by laying down a rail—the crescent—which will not interfere with the level of the streets, but may be crossed, or even travelled over lengthways, by vehicles of any description, without their being in any way strained or injured. Nor will ordinary vehicles be dragged by a skid along the tramway, as all that it will have for the guidance of the carriages designed to run upon it will be a groove for the flange, too narrow for any ordinary wheel to sink into. The promoters of this scheme seem prepared to present a very strong case in the authenticated official reports they have collected from New York, Brooklyn, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Providence, Newark, Chicago, Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto, in all of which cities street tramways are in operation. The reports are from City Sur-

vveyors, Surveyors of Highways, Mayors, Boards of Public Works, &c., and are for the greater part authenticated by her Britannic Majesty's Consul for the respective States in which the respective cities are situated. An epitome before us of twelve of these official reports furnishes information of the most complete and satisfactory character on the following points,—the effect of street railways upon ordinary traffic, especially in crowded streets—the comfort and convenience of the carriages compared with omnibuses—the safety of the system as regards both pedestrians and passengers—the opposition offered to their introduction—the present state of public feeling in their favour—their convenience to all classes—and the saving to the public in the cost of paving the roads. It would appear that the American street cars largely serve the important purpose of our "workmen's trains," in facilitating access to healthy suburban habitations by the working classes. The New York report states that the morning cars are filled with mechanics, labourers, clerks, factory girls, &c., proceeding to business. The cars have enabled many of the working people of New York to take houses at Brooklyn, more roomy and at lower rents than can be secured in New York. At Philadelphia also many mechanics and labourers have taken to suburban dwellings. The reports are for the greater part concurrent in stating that the street cars do not at all interfere with the ordinary traffic of the streets. In some places the omnibuses have succumbed to the superior mode of conveyance, the number of vehicles in the streets is thereby greatly reduced, and the thoroughfares almost free from the "blocks" so common before the introduction of the system. One of these cars usually carries about three times the number of the omnibuses they have superseded. The reports agree in pronouncing the cars greatly superior in comfort and convenience compared with other street carriages. As regards accidents, the New York report computes, from the Coroner's returns, that the safety of the street cars is six times greater than that of omnibuses, both as affects passengers and pedestrians, and assigns as the reasons—that the car driver, being on a level with his horses, has more complete control over them; that by means of his brake he can stop easily within double the length of the car; that pedestrians have only to fear danger from the cars at one particular point, the crossing of the track, whereas other carriages sway from side to side of the street, and pedestrians are taken unawares by the sudden change of their course. The most fruitful source of accidents is the recklessness of passengers in stepping on and off the platform while the car is in motion. In Baltimore, the cars in 1865 travelled 1,201,920 miles, carrying 7,665,664 passengers, killing but one pedestrian, and inflicting no serious injury on any other. In most instances the introduction of the system was much opposed—by vested interests, doubtless—but the opposition has now almost wholly disappeared. The companies maintain the pavement between the rails, and a belt of three feet on each side, the expense of paving borne by the public is hence reduced considerably. Some idea may be formed of the extent to which the system has been introduced from the fact that in New York the companies have 880 of these street cars running daily. On the whole, the character of these reports is such as to justify fully a trial, at least, of the system, in the hope that it may relieve the increasing plethora, impassability, and danger of the streets of London.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS'S old complaint of the appropriation of his novels by the playwrights could hardly be pointed more effectively than by a reference to the version of *Barnaby Rudge*, in course of representation at the Princess's Theatre; and for which Messrs. Watts Phillips, and George Vining, the first and second manager, of experience, are nominally responsible. A caricature of a drama rather than a serious effort in art, it is without interest of any kind, except such as it may afford to an observer curiously speculative on the condition of the English stage and its relation to popular taste. Making no attempt at portrayal of character it presents but slight occasion for the exercise of any acting faculty the performers may own; a result, however, which, in the present state of the company, it is impossible to regard wholly with dissatisfaction. Mrs. John Wood displays talent which has been already recognised in New York and San Francisco, but in a fashion so peculiarly inappropriate to the requirements of the character she plays (Miss Miggs), as to render her performance most decided in its failure. The efforts of the scene-painter, the machinist, and the property man to atone for the literary worthlessness of the piece are but imperfect,—even from the sham-realistic point of view.

THE first concert of the Sacred Harmonic Society took place last week, and consisted of Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang" and Beethoven's "Service in C," which, though less familiar than the "Hymn of Praise," is yet sufficiently well known to render superfluous any attempt at detailed criticism. The choruses were given with great vivacity and vigour—with so much vigour, indeed, as to make the old sense of the necessary imperfectness of a choir so large return with intensity of emphasis: heightened wherever such an instance of slurring occurred as that at the close of the "Et resurrexit." The soprano music was sung by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington with that excellence of vocalisation which is too widely recognised to need praise, and Mr. C. Lyall not only discharged his part well in the Service, but, in the absence of Mr. Sims Reeves, sang the tenor airs of the "Lobgesang" with a most creditable correctness.

DURING the course of the Great Exhibition, when numerous foreign visitors are expected in the metropolis of France, it has been proposed by the distinguished cultivators of the Medical Sciences of that city to hold an International Congress, the statutes and programme of which have already been published. The Congress is to be opened on the 16th of August, and to last two weeks, and to be composed of two classes of members; national foundation members, or French physicians, who are to pay a subscription of twenty francs; and of adherent members, or foreign physicians, who are not required to make any pecuniary contribution. Bouillaud is the President of the Committee. The proceedings of the Congress are to consist of—1. Communications upon Questions proposed by the Committee; and 2. Communications foreign to the Programme. This programme is full and complete. It gives not only the seven questions the committee has proposed, two or three of which, probably from the fact that the very eminent Prof. Paul Broca forms part of the commission, are of anthropological interest, but under each is added a commentary and indication of the chief points of inquiry, with a few instructions. The questions may be briefly mentioned:—1. Pathological Anatomy and Physiology of tubercle. Tuberculation in different countries, and its influence on general mortality. 2. The general accidents which occasion death after surgical operations. 3. Is it possible to propose to the different governments any efficacious measures to restrain the propagation of venereal diseases? 4. On the influence of the alimentation used in different countries upon the production of certain diseases. 5. On the influence of climates, races, and different conditions of life upon menstruation in different countries. 6. On the acclimation of European races in hot countries. 7. On the entozoa and entophytes which may be developed in man. The whole design and the plan for carrying out this congress reflect the greatest credit on our accomplished neighbours. It has our cordial approval and our earnest wishes for its success—a success we cannot but anticipate—that the discussion of these very important questions, in which there is no doubt great instruction and great talent will be combined, may be attended with many beneficial results.

THE number of residents in the University of Cambridge at the present time is 2,039; of whom 1,226 are resident in the colleges and 813 in lodgings. Of these Trinity has 571, St. John's 322, Caius 130, Corpus Christi 128, Christ's 119, and three colleges have between 90 and 100; one has 74, six between 50 and 60; and two 34 and 33 respectively. 517 have been matriculated in the present term.

THE first number of Mr. Trollope's "Last Chronicle of Barset" is lying on our table. The exterior is in particularly good taste. We are introduced to all our old acquaintances—the Arabians, the Dumbellows, the Grantleys, and the Thornes, and the Proudies. Some new characters there are, of course, and we advise our readers to see what they have to say for themselves.

WE have also the first number of a very different publication, the "Philatelist," an illustrated magazine for stamp collectors. This is to appear monthly, and, as its name implies, is intended for a particular class of monomaniacs. So harmless an excitement ought to meet with no enemies.

MESSRS LONGMANS announce "Speeches on Parliamentary Reform," by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; "Three Main Military Questions of the Day: viz., A Home Reserve Army—the more Economic Military Tenure of India—Cavalry versus Breechloaders," by Sir Henry M. Havelock; "The Four Margarets, Lives of the Royal Ladies

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who have borne that name," by Georgina St. John; "The History of India, from the Earliest Period to the close of Lord Dalhousie's Administration," by John Clark Marshman, in 3 vols.—the first two are to appear in January next; "Florence, the new Capital of Italy," by C. R. Weld, this month; "A Manual of Mythology, in the form of Question and Answer, for Schools and Children," by the Rev. G. W. Cox; "On Parliamentary Government in England, its Origin, Development, and Practical Operation," by Alphens Todd, of Canada, in 2 vols.; "The Fourth Edition of the Dictionary of Science, Literature, and Art," edited by Messrs. Brande & Cox; the Third Edition of the History of Philosophy, from Thales to the Present Day," by G. H. Lewes. This will no doubt be almost a new work. Amongst school books, the same firm announce, for January next, a series of Latin books, each carefully adapted by its respective author or editor to the "Public School Latin Primer," which by-the-bye is now in use in all the Nine Schools named in the Royal Commission. Besides these, other works are in preparation, which we shall record next week. We gather this information from that very useful little quarterly periodical issued by the firm, and styled "Notes on Books." Perhaps all our readers are not aware that copies of it are to be had free of all expense, by a simple application to the firm. The "Notes" consist of an analysis, not adapted from any review, of every book published by Messrs. Longmans, and will save the trouble of an actual inspection.

THE volume of the Palæontographical Society for the year 1886, containing—1. The Crag Foraminifera, No. 1, by Messrs. Rupert Jones, W. K. Parker, and H. B. Brady, with four plates; 2. Supplement to the Fossil Corals, Part I (Tertiary), by Dr. Duncan, with ten plates; 3. The Fossil Merostomata, Part I (Pterygotus), by Mr. H. Woodward, with nine plates; 4. The Fossil Brachiopoda, Part VII, No. 1 (Silurian), by Mr. Davidson, with twelve plates, almost ready for delivery to the members. Nearly the whole of the plates prepared for the 1886 volume being completed, and the earlier portions of the letter-press with the printer, there is every probability of the work being distributed before the annual meeting in March next. The greater number also of the plates requisite for the 1887 volume being already drawn, the series of Monographs for that year will be issued in the autumn.

WHILST the tales of the O'Hara family are being reprinted at New York, Michael Banim, the survivor, has edited a cheap edition of "Peter of the Castle." It contains, by way of introduction to "The Fetches," which is incorporated in the volume, a sketch of Barnes O'Hara's difficulties when he and his young wife first came up to London. The book is of the same size and appearance as the standard series of "Select Works of Fiction," to which Messrs. Chapman & Hall lend their names.

A THIRD edition of the "History of Sign Boards" is now being issued. The "large paper" edition for book-amateurs and those who illustrate favourite volumes, with additional prints, cuttings, &c., will not be published until after Christmas.

UNDER the title of "Songs of the Nativity," Mr. W. H. Husk, librarian of the Sacred Harmonic Society, has just completed a most valuable collection of our fine old English carols, sung in old times during the Christmas week. As a painstaking student in our olden literature, Mr. Husk is well and favourably known. The full title of his forthcoming book is—"Songs of the Nativity: being Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern," several of which appear for the first time in a collection. Messrs. Whittingham and Wilkins have printed the volume with exquisite floriated borders, after illuminations in the "Book of Hours of Anne of Brittany."

THE Autocrat of the Breakfast Table (Oliver Wendell Holmes), is out with another new book; this time consisting of humorous verses, under the title of "Wit and Humour: Poems by the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table." Many of the pieces are said to bear a strong likeness to the best of Hood's mirthful verses.

THE new artist, Ernest Griset, who has been styled "the English Gustave Doré," is about to give us a companion volume to his droll "Hatchet Throwers," published last Christmas. The volume, entitled "Legends of Savage Life," is a Munchausen recital of certain marvellous stories and beliefs current amongst the wild tribes of America, and other distant parts. Mr. James Greenwood, of "Amateur Casual" celebrity, supplies the text, and Griset illustrates the various scenes in the weird, yet grotesque, manner peculiar to himself.

Some of our readers may remember that this artist began his career by exhibiting for sale coloured sketches, in a small window in Bear Street, Leicester Square. They then realised a few pence each, now they bring as many pounds.

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IN accordance with the provisions of the Deed of Settlement, the Directors present to the Proprietors their ANNUAL REPORT of the state and condition of the Company, and of the prospects thereof.

THE ACCOUNTS have been prepared and Audited, and annexed is a Copy of the GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET, as at the 31st December, 1865.

DURING the year, 2359 Proposals were received for assuring the sum of £1,097,140 12s., of which number 1795 were accepted, and for which Policies were issued assuring £781,034 12s., and producing NEW ANNUAL PREMIUMS to the amount of £35,641 10s. 6d.

THE total amount of Premiums for the year was £304,061 7s. 6d.

THE number of Deaths which took place during the year is 451, and the amount paid in respect of Claims and Bonuses is £179,451 18s. 2d.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great competition which exists among Life Assurance Offices, it is gratifying to the Directors to remark upon the large amount of the New Business Premiums for the year. It will be noticed that there is an increase beyond the sum received under this head for the preceding year of £9,895.

WHILE bringing before the Proprietors the subject of New Business which the Company has secured, the Directors submit that a review of the last five years' New Premium Income shews a successful issue of the Company's operations—

1861	New Annual Premiums	£34,290	19	2
1862	"	"	"	37,014	15	5
1863	"	"	"	37,093	3	3
1864	"	"	"	25,746	14	8
1865	"	"	"	35,641	10	6

THE Directors have the satisfaction of reporting to the Proprietors that the Indian business continues to maintain its satisfactory character.

THE Directors express their regret at the death of their late colleague, WILLIAM KING, Esq., and desire to bear testimony to the zeal and ability with which he performed his several duties. He was one of the Company's earliest Directors.

MR. JAMES NICHOLS ; LORD GEORGE PAULET, C.B. ; and W. PAGE T. PHILLIPS, Esq. ; three of the Directors of the Company, and the Reverend GEORGE DODSWORTH, D.D., one of the Auditors, retire in conformity with the Deed of Settlement, but, being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

IN conclusion, the Directors beg to add that, while endeavouring to maintain the large New Business of the Company, they would earnestly solicit the co-operation of the Shareholders and the Assured.